

UFO

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CALIFORNIAN, Bakersfield, CA - May 7, 1996

Get X-Files pair over to North High



Staff columnist
herb
BENHAM

Jim Wren's a sober man with his feet planted solidly on planet Earth. His son is an accountant, and Wren's the principal of North High.

He believes in UFOs like he believes in leprechauns. Not often, and with a smile on his face.

On Monday, April 15, Wren and his wife Janell were driving east on Highway 178 to Family Fitness for an early morning workout where he would do a combination of free weights, machines and cardiovascular, and she would do aerobics.

"Did you see that?" she shouted. "That" was a round, chartreuse object a third the size of a full moon moving in an arc across the sky. Wren caught the last two seconds. They both looked at the clock and noted that it was 5:13 a.m. The car went quiet and Janell said:

"Let's remember this."

"Later on, we called the paper," Wren said. "We would never do something like that, but we wanted to see if anybody else had seen it."

They had. In fact, 30 or 40 people from across California had contacted the Seattle-based National UFO Reporting Center. I called the Wrens, who need publicity like they need a hole in the head, and then the UFO Center.

"What confuses us was that it was seen over a broad area," said Peter Davenport, executive director of the UFO Center. "We have conflicting data, and we can't rule anything out yet."

Davenport suggested that I check the UFO Center's Web page. He said there had been 106 UFO sightings since January.

I consulted the Center's web page. The UFO listings were compelling and I have listed a few.

- 3/26/96 21:45, Thousand Oaks, Calif., "Man & wife in hot tub see 2 'tiny triangles' streak from S to N directly overhead, as fast as 'shooting.' Silent; yellow color."
- 2/27/96 Seattle, Wash., "Woman reports experiencing a very short entity, 'like a dwarf,' in her bedroom during night. 2nd visitation in 3 years."
- 3/1/96 19:30, Seattle, Wash., "Woman walking dog witnesses a large, oblong obj., very bright yellow-orange, streak overhead at 'incredible speed.'"
- 3/2/96 19:10, Seattle, Wash., "Anonymous caller reports seeing 'a red thing with a tail pass near the moon.' She inquired whether it could be 'satellite w/tether.'"
- 3/9/96 1:15 Boise, Idaho, "Two young men in public park witness 'meteor,' then realize there are multiple tiny V-shaped objs. overhead. OBJs form wedges."

E.T. VISITS LAGUNA?

CULTURE: Concentric rings in the grass on a slope beside the San Joaquin Hills toll road fan talk of the paranormal.

By **ANDREW HORAN**
The Orange County Register

LAGUNA BEACH — When Tom Ross drives Laguna Canyon Road these days with his son, Kamen, 3, the boy sounds disappointed.

"He says, 'No circles.'"
No more "crop circles" on a slope alongside the nearly completed San Joaquin Hills Transportation Corridor. No more patterns in the grasses like the mysterious shapes that for two decades have appeared in English fields as messages, believers say, from "other intelligences."

Just as the grasses and toll road grew slowly these past few weeks to obscure the patterns in Laguna Canyon, word spread

through the realm of believers in paranormal phenomena:

Here were the first verified signs of extraterrestrial communication — or something even more profound — in the Northern Hemisphere this year, said Ed Sherwood.

"I was really surprised. It has all the hallmarks of a genuine formation — it's not made by humans," said Sherwood, a self-described expert who said he's been studying the crop-circle phenomenon for 10 years.

No, no, skeptics said. Those patterns were merely the subtle, last symbols of resistance from toll-road protesters, the footprints of vandals.

"I admit that I saw the alleged crop circles," said Lisa Telles,

spokeswoman for the toll-road builders. "We all saw them. My first reaction was that people have been trespassing on the road."

Telles said botanists who seeded the slope with a mixture of grasses to prevent erosion noticed the patterns as soon as the grass sprouted.

"Those weren't crop circles," said Margot Griswold, project biologist for the tollway. "They seem to have been put there by man."

Skeptics dismiss the whole crop-circle phenomenon as a hoax, and, indeed, two British artists have admitted creating hundreds of formations through the years by dragging planks through fields.

Still, the mystery of Laguna Canyon grew.

It began in March. As Ross concentrated on the frantic Laguna Canyon Road traffic, his boy spotted rings of barren earth surrounded by lush growth on the steep, manufactured slopes that carry the toll road through Laguna Canyon.

na Canyon.

"He looked up and said, 'Circles!'" said Ross, 31, a freelance product designer and illustrator who lives in Laguna Niguel. "I glanced over and saw these things. Two concentric circles, and another pattern of rays."

Ross, who is a member of the Institute for the Study of Contact with Non-human Intelligence, reported the sighting to an East Coast crop-circle expert. Eventually, word reached Sherwood, an expatriate from Wiltshire, the southern English center of the crop-circle sighting universe, who had just moved to Santa Monica.

Sherwood came to inspect the Laguna Canyon patterns and found what he said were classic concentric circles and a series of lines making a pictogram of a sun shield carried by indigenous people.

In England, folks report finding that the crop circles — and other intricate patterns — are formed by stalks of summer wheat bent at 90 degree angles, in a swirling pattern. The stalks are never creased and the plants

CANYON CIRCLE MYSTERY

Crop circle theorists and toll-road officials agree that concentric circular patterns have shown up in newly seeded slopes near the San Joaquin Hills toll road. But one camp says they were put there by alien visitors while the other says they were definitely man-made.



The Orange County Register

are alive, leading some to believe they mark the landing pads of alien spacecraft.

"The UFO phenomenon is very closely associated with these crop circles," Sherwood said.

The patterns were a little different in Laguna Canyon. "They were made by the absence of plants. The formations were made by bare earth, and the bent plants were at the edges of the bare earth," Sherwood said.

So he offered another explanation: The patterns emerged as a manifestation of the guilt expressed by hundreds of thousands of people upset by global depletion of wilderness. Like, for instance, the construction of the toll road through Laguna Coast Wilderness Park.

Ross says he's no toll-road protester. He figures he'll occasionally travel the road to ease his commute.

But the patterns, the circles, must be some sort of message.

"Looking at them logically, you just know they're not man-made," Ross said. "The most rational explanation I can come up with is that they were done by extraterrestrials."

ISLANDER, Pensacola Beach, FL - May 8, 1996

Traditional "Bubba" sighted over P'cola Bay

On the evening of Friday, May 3rd at approximately 11:15 p.m. a member of the local skywatch group from Shoreline Park, was walking their dog near the junction of 13th Street and Cervantes Street in south Pensacola.

Scanning the sky (as we all do whenever outside) she saw a single red light to the south, over Pensacola Bay. "I would think it was over the bay near the Visitors Center at the foot of the bridge," she told me.

For three full minutes she watched the red light. It stayed stationary in the sky in the same position. She remained in position, noting the light's relationship

to specific points of reference, and no movement whatsoever was detected.

Without warning, the red light suddenly changed color to brilliant white and expanded to a size at arm's length of approximately 3/8ths of an inch in diameter, (Bear in mind that the full moon is usually only the size of an aspirin at arm's length). "It just turned that very brilliant bright white and blew up quite large before it just faded away," the witness told me.

If anyone else witnessed this sighting on Friday evening, please call the Pensacola/Gulf Breeze MUFON Hotline at 438-3261. Keep looking up!

Meanwhile the Wrens have been fielding a lot of phone calls. Marty Butt, the superintendent of the Standard School District, called and said he saw the same thing. A friend of Janell's from Tehachapi phoned and said he saw it driving down to Bakersfield that morning.

Then there have been Wren's friends calling and saying, "That's all we need is for our new principal to be seeing UFOs."

There is precedent. In the first part of this century the Hanford paper reported a sighting of a UFO that moved down the valley. Maybe this is a sign.

Either the UFOs are coming or this heat's starting to wear us out.

$$\tan \beta = \frac{A_v \text{ net}}{A_h} = \frac{A_v - 1}{A_1 \sin \theta} = \frac{A_1 \cos \theta - 1}{A_1 \sin \theta}$$



This photo, published July 9, 1955, on the cover of the Illustrated London News, shows Paul Hill hovering. Hill tapped a supply of 200 psi compressed air, normally used to operate a supersonic wind tunnel, and connected it with fire hoses to a special nozzle. Courtesy of "Unconventional Flying Objects"

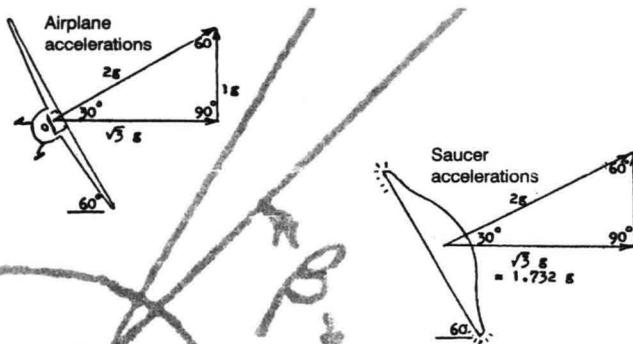
UFO

Maverick
engineer
took

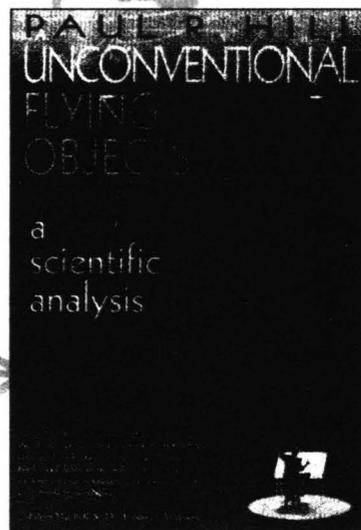


HILL

scientific look



$$\tan \beta = \frac{10 \cos 30 - 1}{10 \sin 30} = \frac{8.667 - 1}{5} = 1.533$$



Paul Hill's "Unconventional Flying Objects: A Scientific Analysis" is available locally.

By Glenn Gaslin
Daily Press

The year is 1955. The film is grainy and black-and-white.

A thin engineer stands perfectly still — his hands at his sides, his back to the camera — and balances on a circular platform that hovers in the air.

It heaves a little to the left and then to the right, forcing the man to shift his weight as if riding a surfboard across invisible waves. Two tubes snake into the contraption and blast jets of air through the bottom, keeping it aloft.

The thing looks like a floating trampoline, a zero-gravity gurney.

But to Paul Hill, the space-race scientist who designed and rides the board, it looks a lot like a UFO, a flying saucer, a spinning disk from another world.

The '50s footage shows Hill at his best. A maverick engineer who worked out his own ideas, however absurd. A scientist who saw things nobody else did.

And now — 44 years after he first witnessed a UFO, 18 years after he finished writing his book and six years after he died — Paul Hill's epic about the science of flying saucers has been published, thanks to his daughter.

The brainy Langley Research Center scientist and his math-heavy tome (called "Unconventional Flying Objects: A Scientific Analysis") also will be featured this month in a paranormal phenomenon show called "Borderlines."

All the attention may make the former NASA engineer, who died at the

age of 81, a posthumous hero among the hard-core "X-Files" crowd that believes the government hides aliens in New Mexico plane hangars.

But those who worked with Hill, many of them pioneers in the U.S. space program, remember him as an imaginative, off-beat engineer. He was just the sort of mind who thrived in the early days of NASA, when no idea was too loony — as long as it could get humans into outer space.

"Paul was always working on the kinds of things that were right out on the edge of impossible," says Glenn Snyder, a former contractor with Rockwell International. He worked with Hill on space station designs, most of which looked like large inflatable

doughnuts spinning slowly in space.

Snyder says Hill stood out, even in the '50s and '60s, when NASA Langley was called "the field" and felt like "a sort of gee-whiz operation."

"He was interested in and dabbled in a little bit of everything simultaneously," says Snyder, now 72 and living in Hampton. "All of them were getting right on the edge of thinking things up. He was terribly curious about why things work and why they don't."

What caught Hill's interest most of all were flying saucers. The first time he saw one, he and his girlfriend were on Chesapeake Avenue in Hampton, right along the water.

"I think we were parked," says Frances Hill, 83, the girlfriend who later became his wife, recalling the 1952 sum-

■ An episode of "Borderlines," featuring Paul Hill, will air April 23 at 9 p.m. on WGNT-TV, channel 27.

(continued on page 3)



Julie Hill, Paul Hill's daughter, is responsible for seeing her father's work published. The original manuscript is on the table in her Norfolk home. "No one had looked at the manuscript for so many years. I was kind of awestruck by the contents of it. I thought it was really important that it shouldn't be lost." Pamela Miller/Daily Press

mer evening. "It was a great place to park."

Two lights came flying out over Hampton Roads, two fast-moving mysterious, yellow orbs that simply couldn't have been airplanes, she says.

They were too quick, too agile, too weird. They hung in the air. They turned in sharp right angles. They glowed. They had to be alien spacecraft.

The next day, the Daily Press ran a story under the headline, "Flying Saucers Reported Spinning Over Peninsula." Another couple in Fox Hill had seen the lights, and so had an "unidentified man" near Fort Story. And all this two days after Pan American Airline pilots said they saw UFOs over Norfolk.

"It was a time when there was a great deal of UFO sightings, much, much more frequent than now," says Max Faget, a retired NASA engineer who worked with Hill before going on to design the first Mercury capsule.

Faget, now living in Dickinson, Texas, says Hill may have been interested in the odd, but he looked at it with the eye of a logical, solid engineer.

"I knew Paul Hill, and I admired him. He was no kook," Faget says. "But he definitely went out at night and found UFOs. He told us about them the next day, and everybody would say, 'OK, Paul, you saw 'em.'"

While NASA did not sanction or sponsor his UFO research, Hill collected any information that came through the agency, including accounts of sightings and investigations.

He wanted to figure out how flying saucers worked, how fast they went, what made them go and why they hovered over Hampton Roads.

He gathered all the available evidence — sightings, newspaper stories, Air Force investigations — and started crunching numbers. He took the accounts at face value and worked from there, developing equations and paradigms to fit the behavior.

"He wanted to provide a rational argument for the existence of the objects," says Faget. "He faces up to some of the phenomenon that might not be explained. But I think it will give the UFO buffs quite a lift."

One of the problems with flying saucers is that they don't obey the basic laws of physics. An airplane, for example, would disintegrate if it moved through the atmosphere at 5,000 mph. But that doesn't bother UFOs, which have been known, according to Hill's book, to zip around at twice that speed.

"His reasoning was sound. He wasn't one of these people who would present completely wild theories," says Hewitt Phillips, a 77-year-old senior research associate at NASA Langley.

"What he stated was that these flying saucers cannot be explained by any existing laws of physics," he continues. "Therefore we have to look for new laws of physics that explain them."

And so Hill invented new "truths" about nature that applied only to his unconventional flying objects. There was no other way to explain them, he argued.

"It's very presumptuous, in my opinion, for any engineer to think he can develop new laws of physics," Hewitt says. "It takes somebody who's really interested in novel ideas to believe he can do this."

But if anything defined Hill's passions, it was his novel ideas.

His professional career danced around the very fringes of science. Many of his ideas never made it beyond the research stage.

One of his papers on file at the NASA Langley Research Center is called "Preliminary Experimental Investigation of the Flight of a Person Supported by a Jet Thrust Device Attached to His Feet."

But it was Hill's ingenious if

"He would concentrate on aiming the gun, trying to prove that the thing would be good for the infantry."

Hill envisioned the Army using his jet boards for combat. He wanted astronauts to skim around the surface of the moon on them. He saw firefighters of the future zipping up the sides of buildings.

"He thought at one time that each person would have one of their own and go around town on it," says Frances, his widow, who also worked at Langley. "Of course, it didn't work out that way."

But Hill found other uses for

"He was a total free spirit and went wherever he wanted," says his daughter, Julie Hill.

"He could go hang out with a bunch of rednecks in a Newport News bar, and he could discuss any aspect of physics with people at NASA."

In the late '70s, he finished the book and sent it to a publisher, who sent it back unread. Not long after that, Hill contracted Parkinson's disease and, 11 years later, in 1990, died.

His book, along with another lengthy paper that patched gaps Hill saw in Einstein's theory of special relativity, existed only as a pile of papers in his house.

"No one had looked at the manuscript for so many years, and one day I asked where it was," says his daughter.

"I was kind of awestruck by the contents of it. I thought it was really important that it shouldn't be lost."

So two years ago, she ran off a few dozen copies and took them to a MUFON (Mutual UFO Network) convention in Richmond, where saucer groupies had gathered to swap stories, conspiracies and sightings.

The hefty photocopies caught a few eyes and caused a stir.

Bought by Hampton Roads Publishing, a Charlottesville house that specializes in things like "metaphysical nonfiction" and "new science," the book was released last month.

But beyond the equations and graphs and clinical language that cover the pages, the story documents the life of an engineer not afraid to wander off the axes and follow his own ideas.

And the photos show a man hovering in the air, flying. "A lot of people who teach themselves to fly don't survive very long," says Snyder.

"Usually they don't have enough experience or knowledge to make it. They'll jump off a bridge and crash. But Paul made it. He could fly."



Headline from Daily Press story on July 17, 1952.

impractical "jet board" that made him a mini-legend at NASA, and which would later play a key role in his book.

In the mid-'50s, he became fascinated with the idea of men flying with rockets beneath their feet. So, with a piece of plywood balanced on top of a bowling ball, he started working out a design.

He then built several working models that hovered on jets of compressed air.

"He would get on that jet board with a BB gun and knock matchbooks off a platform," recalls Faget.

what he learned. "With these experiments," he wrote, "I soon began to realize that I probably had the first valid dynamic simulation of a UFO."

After retiring in 1970, Hill continued his research on UFOs and spent two years writing the book. He also designed and built a working one-man helicopter, a device that he kept secret for many years, says former colleague Snyder.

Hill also spent time traveling alone in Mexico and Costa Rica, Snyder says. He wouldn't come home for months at a time.

BROAD TOP BULLETIN, Saxton, PA - March 27, 1996

To the Editor, Since March 9, 1996 an unidentified flying object has been spotted in the skies over Fannettsburg, Path Valley and Amberson, Pennsylvania. What is this object? No one knows for sure, some say that we have visitors from another planet, while others are crying hoax. But one thing is certain, there is something unusual in the Pennsylvania skies.

Rick Alexander and Lisa Harding from Mix 95 radio station in Waynesboro has been covering this story in their morning talk show. People have called in with all type of spottings, from the mild to the wild.

Most people have reported seeing a bright disc shaped object that moves across the sky quickly, stops and hovers over the area.

Don Berliner a member of The Fund For UFO Research in Mount Rainier, Maryland has stated that he might send a member of the organization out for a look. He says

Some people have said they saw spider like legs on the object. We did not see any legs. However I do not disbelieve that people saw them. It seems that different people see it in different ways.

So what is it? I don't know but I do know that it is no airplane or satellite. It was a beautiful sight. When I ask Mr. Varner what he thought it was, he said, "I would hate to even take a wild guess."

My six year old great nephew, Christopher Allen Wolff Jr. answered the question quickly, "Its a flying saucer Aunt Pat" he said.

I have no idea what it was but seeing it is an experience that I will never forget. I would like to have a picture of it. However we did not have a camera that would take pictures at night.

Patricia Hedge Hawbaker

DEMOCRAT-HERALD, Albany, OR

March 25, 1996

Unexplained sighting? Researcher wants to know

To the editor:

I am an associate with the J. Allen Hynek Center for UFO Studies, Chicago, Illinois. I have investigated and researched sightings of UFOs for 20 years. In 90 to 95 percent of all cases, natural or mundane explanations are found for UFO sightings. The remaining five percent (the "residue") pose challenges for a scientist.

It has come to my attention that around 8 p.m. on March 17, 1996, (Sunday), a number of Albany residents telephoned the Albany Police Department to report a bright white light or lights over Albany, perhaps over Geary and Queen streets.

I am attempting to locate witnesses to this event. If you would print this letter, I would certainly appreciate it. I will keep all information provided by witnesses in confidence, and their privacy will be respected.

Witnesses may phone me at 929-3557, or write me at P.O. Box 819, Philomath, 97370.

GREG LONG
P.O. Box 819
Philomath (March 20)

Possible UFO sighted in Path Valley

By KIMBERLY SCHERER

Monday night a friend called me in a frenzy of excitement. He and a few of his friends went UFO hunting in Path Valley last Saturday night. Unfortunately, they weren't abducted by the 6-foot green alien women they were hoping to discover. They didn't even see the blue and white pulsating lights discussed so many times on the television show "Sightings."

I laughed at him and made fun of his science fiction fetish until Tuesday when I was assigned to find out about a possible UFO sighting. Apparently a local family spotted an unidentified flying object in the skies of Path Valley Saturday night.

So I called the Courtney residence and Doris Courtney of Shippensburg told me I could see the video they shot for myself. I am a bit of a

skeptic, but all I can say about what I saw on the video is that the object was blue and white and pulsating, and I don't believe it was an airplane.

The family was hesitant to be interviewed because they are not sure what they saw.

"When it went behind a cloud it lit up the cloud," Doris said.

She showed me a plane on the video that looked totally different from the blue and

white pulsating object. The plane veered toward the object and then kept moving.

"We don't know what we saw," Doris said. "We're surprised we saw anything."

She explained how her daughter, Jennifer, heard about another group of people seeing the object at Path Valley and so they were curious and wanted to see for themselves.

I called my friend that night to ask him if he knew anyone who may have seen the object. I told him I saw a blue and white pulsating light. He said, "You saw the

blue and white pulsating light, that's no fair you blank, blank, blank."

Then he tried to scare me by telling me that once this story got printed, the government would have to shut me up for divulging UFO secrets. He asked me who he should contact in case I suddenly turn up missing. I said, well, I guess it would be stupid to call the FBI, so just call my parents.

Reaching across the stars

By DEBRA LESTER
Staff Writer

GREENVILLE

As interest in science fiction hits an all-time high with such TV programs as the "X-Files" and "Unsolved Mysteries," and films like "Aliens" and "Species," a research conference here this weekend seeks to show UFOs and aliens are science, not fiction.

The Second Annual UFO and Alien Abduction Research Conference will be held Friday through Sunday at the Holiday Inn at Augusta Road and Interstate 85.

Budd Hopkins, renowned UFO/alien abduction researcher and best-selling author of such books as "Missing Time" and "Intruder: The Incredible Copley Woods Visitation," one of the speakers at the conference, says the fascination with the subject "comes from more and more evidence of the existence of UFOs and alien abductions and more and more credible people giving accounts of their experiences."

He says many mainstream scientists are afraid to study the subject because "the implications are so enormous no one knows how to deal with it. Plus, you can get funding for studying a monster in a Scottish lake, but not for studying UFOs."

Hopkins says he is increasingly being called by members of the mainstream media - last week he was interviewed by a television company doing a special for "Readers Digest" and by a reporter for the BBC - which shows him there is greater acceptance of the subject and greater interest. "The majority of the public is drawn to the subject, but it makes them extremely uneasy."

Joining Hopkins at the conference will be Dr. David Jacobs, associate professor of history at Temple University and a UFO researcher for 27 years; Dr. Jesse Marcel Jr., son of the late Maj. Jesse Marcel Sr., an intelligence officer stationed at Roswell Army Airfield in Roswell, N.M., in 1947 where a UFO is said to have crashed; Katharina Wilson, author of "Alien Jigsaw" which details her 119 abduction experiences; Kim Carlsberg, celebrity photographer and author of "Beyond My Wildest Dreams," about her abduction experiences; and Darryl Anka, graphic design artist and illustrator who has designed special effects for "Star Trek: The

Next Generation" and "Babylon 5" and who illustrated Carlsberg's book.

Hopkins says every abduction case is different. He has worked with farmers, NASA scientists, musicians, psychiatrists, police officers, people of all ethnic and educational backgrounds who have had abduction experiences.

He says his investigation shows that most people are first abducted as children. Cydney Scott, a pseudonym for a Greenville woman who formerly lived in Spartanburg, says she is one of those abductees.

Scott was about two years old and playing with her dog in her back yard in Delaware in 1959 when "all of a sudden the dog went to sleep and a little gray being wanted me to go into the woods. A craft was back there.

I don't remember walking back there or going into the craft, but I remember being stung close to my right ear with a silver thing like a pencil. I was lying on an exam table."

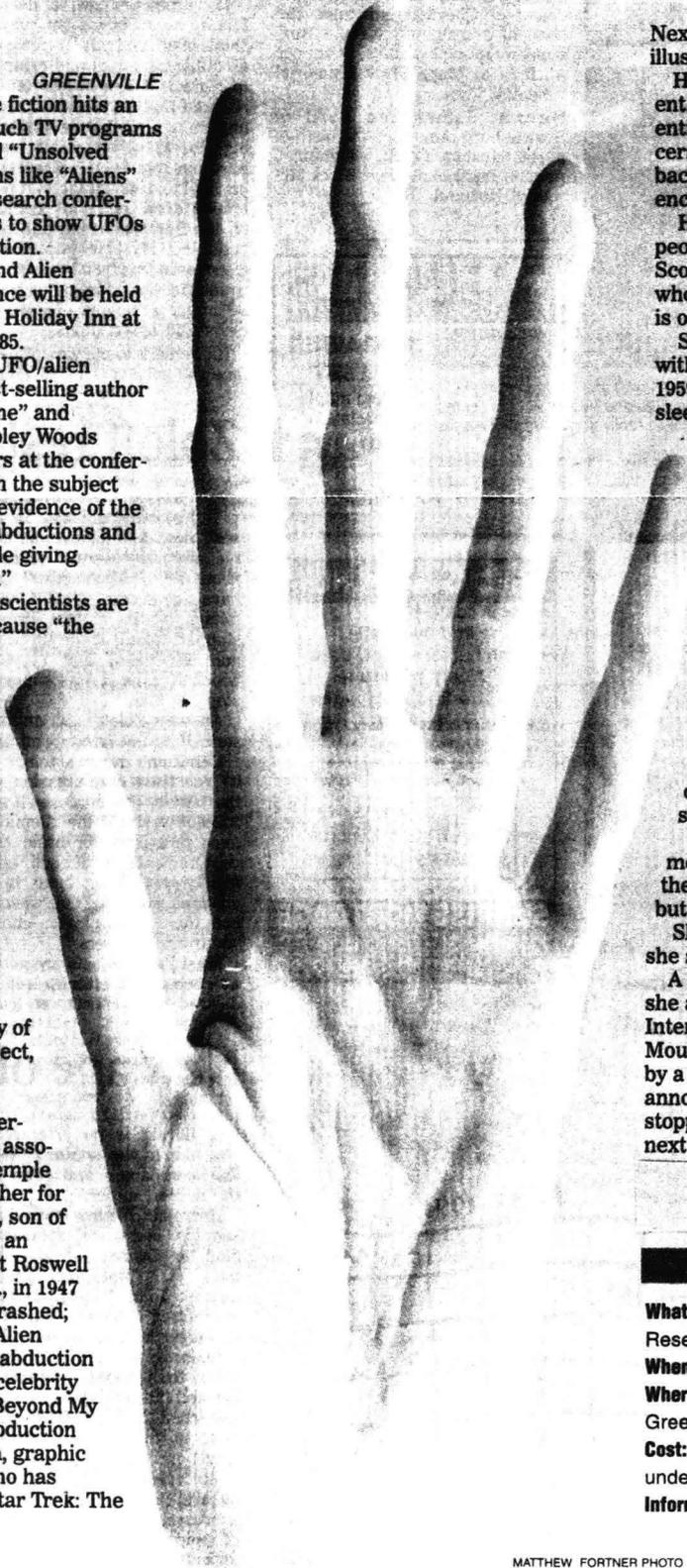
The being who stung her "was female with pinkish skin, taller and a slightly different color than the others. She told me, telepathically, that she knew my mother. She said they would always be here, meaning interacting throughout my life and that's always been the case."

Scott only remembers bits and pieces of other abductions, something Hopkins says is common.

"Suddenly I was not in the craft anymore. I was walking back, being escorted by the being. I wasn't afraid. I was confused, but I wasn't afraid," Scott says.

She says her memory was triggered when she saw the film, "Fire in the Sky."

A more recent experience happened when she and family members were driving on Interstate 95 between Richmond, Va., and Mount Pilot, N.C. She says she was fascinated by a bright light in the sky to the point of annoying the people in the car with her. They stopped to let her get in the back seat and the next thing she remembers is driving in a



MATTHEW FORTNER PHOTO ILLUSTRATION

WANT TO GO?

What: UFO & Alien Abduction Research Conference

When: 9 a.m. Saturday and Sunday

Where: Holiday Inn at Augusta Road and I-85, Greenville

Cost: \$100, senior citizens, \$80; no one under 21 admitted

Information: (864) 675-9328

circle around a church and everyone in the car wondering how to get back to the highway.

She also remembers times of awakening with her "nightgown on inside out, or with strange bruises or a spot of blood someplace. I once awoke with a triangular bruise on my stomach."

At first her memories frightened her, but now "It's a part of my life. I consider these other beings as part of my family, just like my brothers."

Mary Shannon Kluge, organizer of this conference and originator of an abductee support group in Greenville, says her first remembered encounter was in 1988. "Something sat on the side of my bed. I thought it was my twin sister,

but I turned and nothing was there. But I felt something move with me. I tried to get away and the next thing I knew it was morning and I felt like I had the flu. One side of my face was swollen even with my nose and I had a black eye on the other side."

Her doctor couldn't tell her what happened, but gave her antibiotics. She thought her apartment was haunted so she moved, but she still had experiences, awakening "with incision marks, bruises and no memory of what happened."

She read the book "Communion" and was both drawn to, and repelled by, the triangular shaped face on the cover. She began researching. She moved again. "It

was like I was running from it. One night I awakened and saw a shadowy gray being beside the bed and heard a voice say 'I'm not going to harm you.'"

Both Kluge and Scott acknowledge that some people say the aliens are demons, but they disagree. "I always believed in God before, but not like I do now," Scott says. "They're not demons. There's a lot of stuff going on out there."

"I'm a firm believer in God," Kluge says. "People say this is demonic, but I don't think so."

Kluge organized an Upstate Support Group for Abductees in October 1994, and held the first conference in August 1995. The monthly meeting of the support

group averages about 20 people in attendance. Members, whom she promises anonymity, range in age from 20 to 60. Both men and women attend.

The conference is open to anyone who is interested in the serious study of the subject. "This is not about beanie caps and T-shirts. It's about credible speakers and lectures."

Conference seating is limited, so Kluge will leave the number of seats available on her answering machine so people may call before coming. The number is (864) 675-9328. Cost for the conference is \$100 and you must be at least 21 years old to attend. Senior citizens may attend for \$80. Kluge says her

oldest registrant is 88. Early registration is from 6 to 8 p.m. Friday. Conference fees cover an evening cocktail party with a cash bar by the pool Friday, lectures beginning at 9 a.m. Saturday and again at 9 a.m. Sunday. Saturday evening after the dinner break there will be a panel discussion followed by a cocktail party by the pool with a cash bar. The full conference program will be distributed at registration.

Piece of metal brought to UFO museum to verify authenticity

Jason Bunch

Record Staff Writer

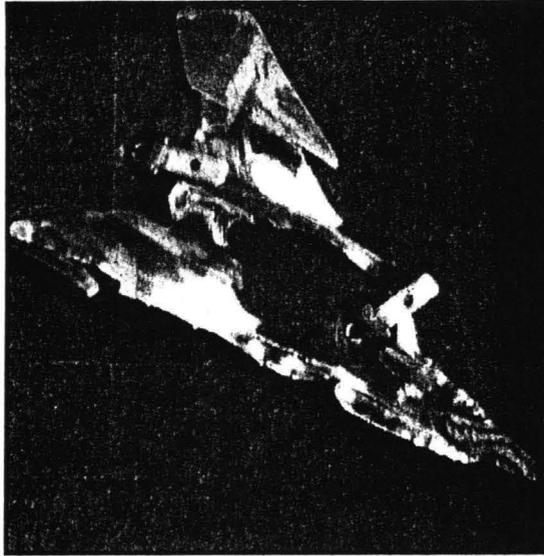
At first glance it looks just like a small piece of metal sculpture, but upon closer inspection the metal in question does indeed look foreign. There are "rust spots" that are not evidence of corrosion, but instead markings of a strange color pattern.

There are small intricate lines throughout the metal that look as if they were leading someplace bigger at one time, like a large machine, a vehicle maybe — maybe even a UFO.

Last Sunday, a local citizen (who's identity is unknown) turned over to the UFO Museum what could be the long sought after "smoking gun" in the 1947 Roswell Crash.

"From the information we have, this is from a man who was stationed here and was part of the crew that helped pick it up," Max Littell of the museum said. "We are not saying one way or another that this is what it is, but we are going to do everything we can to find out."

The piece, which is framed, has been under protection by the owner for some time. Littell said that it is apparent that whoever had it, held it in high value. He also said that it only



Mike Petit photo

This piece of metal was turned over Sunday to the UFO Museum to validate its authenticity of whether or not it is a piece of an alleged UFO that crashed in the desert north of Roswell in 1947.

makes sense that whatever came down in the Roswell skies in 1947 was not completely picked up and hidden by the military.

"We have always felt that the soldiers didn't put it all in the back of their jeeps," Littell said. "If they had a

pocket they probably put some of it in their pocket."

Photos have been taken of the piece and will be sent to Dr. Jesse Marcel Jr., who saw debris from the crash when he was 12-years-old after pieces were brought home by his father Maj.

Jesse Marcel, one of the first people to investigate the site in 1947.

"We are going to give him the photos and say 'this is what is alleged to be some of the material, does it resemble what you saw?'" Littell said.

Afterward, the museum plans to take a piece of the material to a metallurgist to authenticate it one way or the other.

If the piece is terrestrial it could back up air force claims that what crashed in the desert all those years ago was a military experiment.

If the piece is indeed found to be other-worldly, than it could prove to be an earth-shattering revelation.

"If some metallurgist says there is nothing in the book like this," Littell said, "and he has got all of his degrees and is an expert source than we are home free — that is it."

Littell is asking for anyone who saw the material in 1947 to come and look at the piece to verify if it is what they witnessed when the crash occurred.

He also urged anyone who might have another piece that they have kept in secret to bring it to the museum for a comparison.

vintage
santa barbara

BEN HELLWARTH

Investigating UFOs not just flight of fancy

What Donna Higbee is saying sounds like a pitch for life insurance: "If you could know that there was something definitely coming in the future that was going to greatly impact your life, wouldn't you want to start looking into it now so you would be prepared? Do you really want to go into your future blind and ignorant of some basic information that would help you cope with it better?"

Though she's not urging anyone to "Get Met," there is a similar precautionary tone to her words. Three years ago she wouldn't have said any such thing.

Back then, the bookshelves in the tidy condominium where she lives with her husband, Bill, a retired UCSB staff member, were not yet filled with titles like "Abduction" and "Above Top Secret: The Worldwide UFO Cover-up." She had not yet become a hypnotherapist nor formed a support group for people suffering psychological trauma from supposed abductions by otherworldly beings. She did not spend her leisure time writing about abduction trends and corresponding on the Internet with like-minded investigators.

"I didn't know a UFO from a hole in the ground," Higbee says.

She certainly would not have fronted the money to bring guest speakers to Santa Barbara to talk about a variety of potentially extraterrestrial affairs, including crop circles, those geometric patterns that seem to turn up most often in pristine English farmlands.

Several hundred local earthlings have attended the public lectures Higbee personally arranged, and two or three hundred more will likely pay \$10 each and fill UCSB's chemistry auditorium at 7:30 p.m. on May 18 to hear Robert Dean, a retired Army command sergeant major, who claims to have read a top-secret NATO study of UFO activity in Europe in the 1960s.

Higbee met Dean — "one of the hottest speakers on the UFO subject in the world right now" — at a conference in Los Angeles a couple of years ago and was immediately impressed with his eagerness, in defiance of a security oath, to speak about his classified readings. By then Higbee had begun her own personal crusade to present out-of-this-world information which, like an insurance policy, she believes to be critical.

"The man is as driven as I am to try to educate people. That is his holy thing. He wants the people to know the truth," Higbee says. "He's trying to get the spark lit so people will go out and do their own homework and educate themselves."

Homework and education are not alien concepts to Higbee, who studied acting in the 1960s at the Pasadena Playhouse's former drama school. After bowing out of theater life and moving to Santa Barbara in the late '70s, she studied psychology at Santa Barbara City College and got her bachelor's degree in religious studies from UCSB.

Higbee still loves Shakespeare, but for now the Bard's plays are in the garage to make room for Higbee's growing library of UFO-related literature.

She currently works nine-to-five for a large Santa Barbara company as a secretary, a corporate skill she honed in Los Angeles. Higbee, 49, grew up near Cedar Rapids, Iowa. A serene painting of a barn and windmill in a snowy field, which hangs over the couch where she sits, seems more consistent with her roots than do flying saucers.

So why the fervent interest in UFOs? Was she abducted? Did she catch a glimpse of a mysterious craft in the

night sky? It was nothing that dramatic, just a common encounter of the small-town kind.

Higbee was in between secretarial jobs when she met Michael Lindemann, a well-known Santa Barbara futurist and UFO researcher, and asked if he needed any assistance. He did, and Higbee began setting up his speaking engagements.

Through Lindemann she got a crash course in extraterrestrial issues. She also met dozens of individuals who claimed to have had abduction experiences and "realized there was a need, a growing need, for good, qualified therapists to help these people."

So began her training as a hypnotherapist and a cosmic career twist. As Hamlet told Horatio, Higbee cheerily recalls, "There are more things in heaven and earth than are dreamt of in your philosophy."

Metal test results create questions

Jason Bunch

Record Staff Writer

A metal test that was expected to clear up some of the mystery surrounding the alleged UFO crash north of Roswell in 1947 has only created more questions.

Last week a piece of metal reportedly linked to the crash was turned over to the International UFO Museum and Research Center.

The paper-thin piece was tested by the New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology in Socorro on Friday and was found to contain about 85 percent silver and 15 percent copper on one side and pure silver on the other.

Although no unknown substances were found in the metal, that does not rule out the possibility that it is extraterrestrial, since silver and copper are basic elements which are found on other planets.

"When they went to the moon they didn't find anything

new," Max Littell of the International UFO Museum and Research Center said. "The elements they came back with were elements we have here on earth. According to the Big Bang theory, which nearly every scientist agrees on, there are millions of other worlds that have these same basic elements as we do."

Nuclear physicist Stanton Friedman agreed, pointing out that the mixture of copper and silver is an interesting one. Friedman has been investigating the alleged UFO crash since 1978.

"Silver and copper is an odd combination," Friedman said Saturday from his home in New Brunswick, Canada. "They are both good electrical conductors, which is interesting considering what it could be."

Friedman said he hopes the piece will be tested again by a commercial lab.

"You want to go to a testing lab that does precision testing for courts," Friedman said. "Because basic composition is interesting, but that is only a small part of the story and you don't really know what the smaller parts are. To find that out you need to go to a commercial lab. Those guys have to do really fine work for the courts, and professors are less thorough."

Friedman also said the next step to identifying the piece is to track it back to the original owner, who is alleged to be a soldier stationed in Roswell in 1947 who picked up the debris at the crash site.

Littell said the museum is in the process of doing that. "We are going backwards and trying to find the source," Littell said. "We need to get back to the GI and have him say, 'Yes, I smuggled it out.'"

The museum has already sent pictures of the metal to Jesse Marcel Jr., who said he saw the debris when he was 12 years old. Littell also said the museum might get a second opinion about the metal.

"We will get more opinions if someone has something more to offer in the way of testing," Littell said.

A detailed report over the metal is expected to be issued by testing lab early this week.

The truth is out there, say UFO true believers

By CHARLES S. CLARK
CONGRESSIONAL QUARTERLY

Forty years after seeing his first UFO, Ray Stanford still gets goosebumps telling the story:

On the night of Oct. 21, 1956, he and three other teenagers in his flying saucer club were out on the salt flats near Brownsville, Texas. Suddenly, a few hundred yards away, they saw an "oblate spheroid," about 40 feet in diameter, glowing with a pulsing, electric-blue light.

The strange craft swooped closer — neither casting a shadow nor reflecting moonlight — and emitted an eerie hum that terrified coyotes and waterfowl. An electrostatic charge made the boys' hair stand on end; they were unable to move. The saucer landed. Then, after a few minutes, it shot straight up into the stratosphere, leaving a column of charged air and some crushed vegetation.

The experience altered Stanford's life. As an award-winning high school science student, he had been offered a scholarship to study rocket engineering at the University of Texas. Instead, he founded Project Starlight International, with funding from friends and a nonprofit corporation.

In its heyday in Austin in the 1970s, Starlight boasted a staff of five, including engineers and physicists who took measurements of questionable phenomena using special instruments. Their hope was to blow the scientific world wide open by proving the existence of extraterrestrial spacecraft.

"The UFO research establishment hates me because I did what they should have done," Stanford says. "They focused on tales told in the night. But I don't care how much credibility you have, human perception cannot do the job that electronic and optical equipment can do."

Stanford's work is familiar to Philip J. Klass, an editor at Aviation Week & Space Technology magazine, who has been debunking UFOs for 30 years. The two maintain cordial relations and share information on the occasional UFO hoax.

"There is no credible evidence for the existence of UFOs," Klass says. "And at this point in my life, unless one landed in my front yard or on the rooftop of CNN, I would remain very skeptical. There would have to be impressive and simple evidence."

UFO enthusiasts had their eyes on Washington last summer when the General Accounting Office released a report requested by Rep. Steven H. Schiff, a New Mexico Republican, seeking to answer a 50-year-old question: Is the government sitting on documents proving that a flying saucer crashed near Roswell, N.M.?

The Air Force beat the GAO to the punch by releasing a phone-book-sized report saying that what crashed was a secret radar balloon designed to measure Soviet atomic tests.

In recent years, the estimated 19 million Americans who say they have seen a UFO have been upstaged by the 4 million people who claim, according to a 1991 Roper poll, that they were abducted by alien spacecraft.

Accounts of being taken aboard, forced to undergo intimate physical examinations and even made to mate with extraterrestrials made a believer of Dr. John E. Mack, a Pulitzer Prize-winning psychiatrist whose enthusiasm sparked an alarmed review of his status on the faculty of Harvard University Medical

School.

"Most of the specific information that the abductees provided about the means of transport to and from the spaceships, the descriptions of the insides of the ships themselves and the procedures carried out by the aliens during the abductions had never been written about or shown in the media," Mack wrote in his widely noted 1994 book, "Abductions: Human Encounters with Aliens."

"Furthermore, these individuals were from many parts of the country and had not communicated with each other. They seemed in other respects quite sane, had come forth reluctantly, fearing the discrediting of their stories or outright ridicule."

The modern debate over UFOs began raging in 1947, just after the arrival of the Atomic Age. But, surprisingly in the 1990s, UFOs remain a strong presence on the cultural radar screen, along with other paranormal claims — such as psychic powers, communications from ghosts and "near-death experiences."

People who claim psychic powers — and whose cable TV ads offer pay-by-the-minute services — even offer hope to police departments desperate for clues in tough cases.

And last November the public learned that in the early 1970s the Pentagon and the CIA had ventured into the world of the paranormal. Since then, the military and intelligence agencies spent \$20 million on "Operation Stargate," a series of "remote-viewing" experiments in which psychics attempted to visualize key enemy secrets.

The Internet and entertainment media offer persuasive indications that Americans are hot for the paranormal. The Net is abuzz with discussion groups reachable at the address alt.alien.visitors. Sci-fi dramas and programs reenacting the unexplained are perennial favorites on TV and in the movies. Thirty-six percent of Americans believe in ghosts, according to a 1994 Louis Harris and Associates Poll, while Gallup research reports that 8 million Americans have had a near-death experience.

Observers have noted that rising interest in UFOs coincides with high levels of mistrust in government. Stuart Vyse, a professor of psychology at Connecticut College, is preparing a survey on the two trends.

"People have become so jaded and negative about government that they are willing to accept a government-conspiracy theory," he says, "which makes it easier to accept the idea of UFOs landing on Earth. Otherwise, these people reason, how would the landings go undetected?"

Conspiracy theories have long been part of the "paranormal world view," says Paul Kurtz, chairman of the Committee for the Scientific Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal and a professor of philosophy emeritus at the State University of New York at Buffalo.

"Like right-wingers who fear the Trilateral Commission or the New World Order, there are people who take things that can't be explained and give them occult or spiritual overtones," Kurtz says.

Clearly, however, scolding lectures from skeptics often bounce right off true believers like Stanford.

"Whichever nation gets the secret [to how UFOs are propelled] could rule the world," he says.

Analysis of metal fails to refute claims of crash

Jason Bunch

Record Staff Writer

Wherever it came from, somewhere along the line it fell down and went boom.

Analysis of the piece of metal reportedly linked to the alleged 1947 Roswell UFO crash reveals that the sample was part of a larger object that did indeed suffer some kind of disaster.

"It obviously came from a larger piece and the way it came from there was from a catastrophic event," Analyst Chris McKee said. "What that really means, I have no idea. It could be from an explosion, it could from a crash."

The piece, which was turned into the International UFO Museum and Research Center March 24 by an anonymous source, was tested last week by McKee at the New Mexico Institute of Mining and

One thing is for sure though, it did not come directly from the weather balloon experiments known as Project MOGUL that the United States Air Force claim is responsible for the crash.

According to Max Littell of the UFO museum, Char-

"It obviously came from a larger piece and the way it came from there was from a catastrophic event. What that really means, I have no idea."

■ Analyst Chris McKee

les Moore, a member of the Technology in Socorro.

Initial results revealed that the sample was composed of silver and copper, but a written report lists traces of sodium, aluminum, silicon, iron, chromium, sulfur and chlorine as also present on the piece.

According to McKee, the origin of those elements is unknown.

"It could just come from handling or soil, we didn't clean the sample or anything so we have no idea what was on the surface," McKee said.

Since the components of the piece are all natural elements, and could be found throughout the universe, the composition of the metal does not provide proof one way or another about what crashed in 1947.

"It doesn't really help decide whether it is extraterrestrial or not," McKee said.

team that designed and worked on Project MOGUL, was at the test in Socorro.

"He said it was not a part of the balloon, and he worked on the project before it was even known as MOGUL," Littell said. "It could have been part of extra instrumentation attached to it, but it wasn't part of the balloon, nor was it part of its inner-workings."

Although the findings are promising, Littell noted that there is still no conclusive evidence that what crashed in the desert all those years ago was a UFO.

"There are still a lot of 'could bes' and 'maybes,' but no absolutes in this yet," Littell said.

The next step in verifying the origin of the piece is tracking it back to its original owner. Littell said that the museum is currently working toward that end.

Abductees against 'Nova'

Set your phasers on stun, boys. An upcoming WGBH program about UFO abductions has several participants howling betrayal, claiming they were sandbagged by "Nova" producers who ignored



MACK

all evidence supporting their tales of dances with aliens — and whose film portrays unwitting abductees as "weak-minded patsies," in the words of investigator Budd Hopkins. Hopkins, author of "Intruders," and John E. Mack, the Harvard shrink wrist-slapped by the university for ministering to the saucer-assisted, are two of the featured subjects in "Kidnapped by UFOs?," which airs Tuesday. Hopkins had high hopes when he invited a "Nova" crew to Florida, where he debriefed a family (including two small children) about their extraterrestrial adventures. Now a seething Hopkins has ripped off a letter accusing producers Denise Dilanni and Paula Apsell of "mangling the truth," "tampering with evidence" and sensationalizing the results to score rating points. He says

Dilanni and Apsell "should be ashamed of themselves."

Mack's office is preparing its own rebuttal to the "Nova" show, arguing that it's hopelessly biased, heavily reliant on naysaying scientists (like Carl Sagan) with no clinical experience in the area and that it disregards "the potential psychological harm to this population," meaning the abductees. Meanwhile, Mack and his lawyer personally served notice on 'GBH execs yesterday that they will sue for defamation if portions are not excised before broadcast. The hot-button footage concerns Donna Bassett, who surfaced in Time magazine two years ago when Mack's book "Abduction" appeared. Bassett, a self-proclaimed investigative journalist, posed as an abductee with the intent of exposing Mack as a charlatan. Mack supporters counter that Bassett is a well-documented wacko whose prominent role in the "Nova" film is "reflective of its overall sloppiness," according to Mack attorney Eric MacLeish.

Residents of Planet 'GBH were not returning calls late yesterday. However, the flap can only whet viewer appetite for one more bite of Big Mack and company.

JOSEPH P. KAHN

U.F.O. Sighting? Dr. Ann Denham reports that she witnessed a flying object in the northwest at around 9:30 p.m. the week of April 8. Apparently, the object had a bright blinking red lights and then would switch to a blinking blue light. The object would remain stationary and then move over a little bit and then would remain stationary again. Any guesses anyone? Was it a satellite? Aircraft? Or was it a visitor from planet X?

Keep an open mind when tracking UFOs

By TODD NOVACK

There were some unexplained sightings near Mongul Hill that prompted residents to ask themselves what the government has done to track UFOs lately. One person's photographs of five flying lights have legitimized questions about extraterrestrial spacecraft appearing in the skies over the Cumberland Valley.

People up and down Roxbury Road have been tracking this unidentified flying object from the nearby hills vantage point for several weeks. These residents have no answers about what is flying that far out almost one-half mile above the ground.

Astronomers have been sending radio signals to search for other signals from civilizations on planets that orbit distant stars hoping to find extraterrestrial life. Avid UFO hunter Larry Hause, who wants to promote interest in extraterrestrial

spacecrafts, uses his camera to find answers.

"The different colored lights over Mongul Hill appear to move like a reflection or a quartz floating in the air," Hause said. "The object is in the earth's atmosphere but people can't prove what they see in the sky."

The flying object has been brought to the attention of radio station 95.1 WIKZ which announced the location of the darting light on broadcasts, Hause said. So people have been coming from all over to see the lights.

Nevada Gov. Bob Miller has announced that he will dedicate a extraterrestrial highway in state ceremonies this spring. The 98-mile desolate stretch of western roadway will be used for drumming up tourism in the state.

"Some highways have markings that allow UFOs to land," Hause said. "I have been shooting pictures trying to find a pattern to the different color lights I see like

crystals far out in the night sky."

This group of people think

the lights in the Northwestern sky could be something the government is trying to cover-up, or an experiment the government is conducting in the area.

The lights move around but do not hold a pattern, Hause reported.

The lights dart about then sit for a while before darting about again, said Nadine Leavitt, who was tracking the UFO for several weeks. Shippensburg University astronomers should be trying to understand what they see up there, she added.

"Whatever it is, the flying lights are really a neat trick," Hause said.



Larry Hause

Strange lights in sky over Casper

By JASON MARSDEN and DEIRDRE STOELZLE
Star-Tribune staff writers

CASPER - Just off Hat Six Road, dozens of men huddle in the unforgiving winds blowing off of Casper Mountain, peering through night vision glasses, scanning the sky.

Some unknown force has been flying helicopters, sometimes in formation, through the darkness, they say, three nights a week, three hours a night, for more than a year. Even when spied through \$5,000 night-vision goggles, the men must identify the aircraft by their strobe patterns alone.

Reports of sightings have reached the governor's office, the sheriff's office, the Federal Aviation Administration and the Wyoming National Guard.

None of the agencies can explain what's going on. The FAA says it's investigating eyewitness reports, according to Mitch Barker at the regional office in Seattle.

Natrona County International Airport control tower staff "have observed, on numerous occasions, what appears to be slow moving aircraft along the north side of Casper Mountain" - as many as 14 at a time, and probably choppers, the tower told the FAA in a memo.

Whatever the lights in the sky are, they're not U.S. military - or, presumably, any other military, says Wyoming National Guard Adjutant General Ed Boenisch, who says he's exhausted every imaginable lead and turned up no proof of training missions or operations, period.

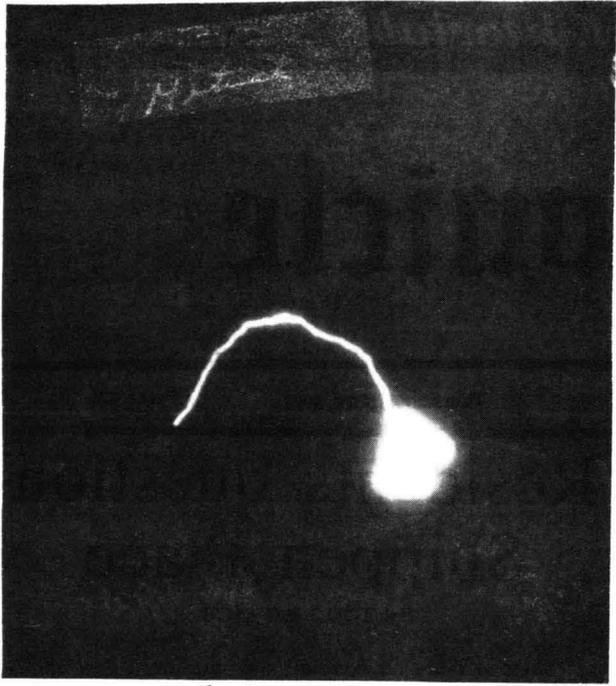
He thinks the huge sky and curvature of the Earth may be playing tricks with the men's eyes, fooling them into thinking commercial aircraft hundreds of miles away are something else.

That doesn't square with Casper pawn broker and gun dealer Dave Zerbe, who spearheaded an impromptu probe into the helicopters. He says he's come right up to one on the mountaintop, scraped paint from it, even, while evading a bunch of armed soldiers in black garb. Zerbe says his analysis of the paint proves it to be military-style, anti-radar coating.

They've stampeded Zerbe's horses through barbed wire at his home near the county line, he claims, damaged his shingles, and hovered as close as 50 feet from his roof. He says he's heard them speaking Russian on radios.

Zerbe's even chartered a plane from Casper Air Service to try to chase down the whirlybirds. He tells a harrowing tale of following them as far as the Colorado line south of Baggs and Dixon, where he thinks they're based, only to be pursued back to Casper by Apache helicopters, just off the wingtips of the rental twin-prop.

His hired pilot won't comment on the record, asked that his name not be used and suggests privately that Zerbe is exaggerating. But other men who've been coming out to Hat



Flying Saucer

Larry Hause took this photograph of an unidentified flying object from Mongul Hill near Roxbury Road. These lights were seen two weeks ago on a Friday, at 8:30 p.m. Hause estimated these lights at 2,200 feet above the ground.

Six for months - including McDonald's franchise owner Greg Hansen - have laid skepticism aside.

Hansen too has seen the craft land on the mountain, could even hear their blades, he said. Lately, they've been staying farther away, he noted.

Natrona County Sheriff Dave Dovala has been out for a look, as have five deputies, but "all you can see are white strobe lights on the horizon," the sheriff said. He doesn't seem to take them seriously.

Ken Erickson, chief of staff to Gov. Jim Geringer, isn't laughing over the accounts - but hasn't solved the mystery, either. He says if the craft are a special military operation, he wishes they'd tip off the local authorities, to prevent a panic - but they haven't.

At about 8:30 p.m. Wednesday night, Zerbe handed over his night vision goggles to rancher Tom Milne, who runs live-

stock in the area of Hat Six Road east of Casper. Staring off into the distance, Milne said he could see the flashing strobe lights of two separate unidentified flying objects which had appeared on the northern horizon, right over his family's homestead on Smith Creek.

Milne, who said neither he nor his ranch hands have seen anything of the sort Zerbe and his cohorts have described, said his family and other ranchers are out at all hours and the strangest thing they've seen is the folks looking for helicopters.

On Monday, BB Brooks ranch owner Russell Gordy said in an interview from Houston that neither he nor his ranch hands - who are, night and day, working in the vicinity Zerbe and Hansen describe as being the epicenter of the copters' activities - have seen any unidentified flying objects.

Gordy added that he has not given anyone permission to fly

A search for circles

CITIZEN PATRIOT, Jackson, MI - March 11, 1996

GRASS LAKE - Enjoy 'em, they're real. Crop circles, or crop formations as they are sometimes called, are those beautifully symmetric formations that appear in grain fields like oat or wheat. They are found all around the world, but none compares in size or beauty with those in England.

If you've not seen pictures of them, you can catch a quick glimpse in the opening minutes of the TV show "Sightings," which airs Saturday evenings on CBS at 7 p.m. The crop circle story has been featured by some of the more documentary-type shows, too, but they tend to downplay the facts and play up the "hoax" part, for whatever reason.

The hoax part of the story started when a couple of men formed some circles in several English fields by pushing the crop down with a board. The tragedy is not in their having done it, but in the media perpetrating the story. The hoax story is not factual.

A healthy crop is as distinguishable from the "disordered" crop in a formation as plainly as water is distinguishable from ice. Crop circles form in Michigan grain fields all the time; you can even find them in the wild oat that grows in your backyard. To see them for yourself, here's what to do and what to look for:

Find an oat or wheat field and look for a patch of grain along the border that appears to have blown down. (Be sure you have permission!) The stem of a cereal crop looks a lot like a bamboo fishing pole, only smaller. It'll have a section of straight stem, then a node, more straight stem and another node.

Pick a stem that looks bent over. If it's been formed by what makes crop circles, you'll see this: Each node (and there'll be three or four of them) will look arthritic; the node will look like it's growing off at an angle. Now pick a good one, and the nodes will be straight.

If you can't find anything that looks like that, get some straight ones and put them in a microwave oven at low to medium intensity for a few seconds and make your own. The formations "stand out" like they do because the crop within the "picture part" is laying tight to the ground. The nodes have deformed so much, often in excess of 90 degrees, and so fast that the crop is unable to stand.

Circles are formed by an energy similar to lightning, but no one knows exactly how or why. The inner edges of the circles are so clean they look knife-cut, and the stems intertwine like cloth as the circle forms, so to look underneath like you have to unweave the "cloth."

Enjoy the crop formations. They are as real as water.

Jim Bowles

over his land, and wouldn't, even if they asked. "I don't want them scaring my cows," he said.

Hansen said Wednesday more than one self-described "bird-watcher" - none of whom he would identify - has received anonymous telephone threats warning them, "I told you to stop watching the helicopters."

After showing reporters the flashing strobes on the horizon, the pools of light along the interstate, and the star-studded sky through the eerie green light of the night-vision goggles, Hansen paused to reflect.

"You should see a shooting star through these things," he said.

Zig-Zagging white light sighted in area

By Carol Baker

A call came in to the UFO Hotline this week that led to the reporting of two separate sightings of similar nature. The first took place on May 3 and the second on May 8.

At approximately 8:15 p.m. on Friday, May 3 1996, Chrissy and her friend were walking on Oriole Beach in Gulf Breeze. Above them in the darkening sky they noticed a star that appeared to be moving. At first they thought it was a high flying jet or a satellite. However, as Chrissy went on to describe, the "star" was making some very erratic and strange movements in the sky. "It was zig-zagging around making sharp ninety degree turns and then stopping. It would disappear and reappear a short distance away." They watched for fifteen minutes until the "star" finally disappeared and did not reappear again.

Chrissy shared with me that several years ago during the big

flap in Gulf Breeze, she and her mother had sighted a craft similar to that which was recorded in the Ed Walters photographs. "I don't mind seeing them when they're far away, but it makes me very nervous when they come close," Chrissy told me. The sighting she had shared with her mother was close, "it came down to right above the trees and you could see the whole thing," Chrissy said.

On May 8, 1996 Chrissy was walking her dog with her mother and her friend on Pensacola Bay in west Pensacola. It was approximately 9:30 p.m. They could see the lights from several boats out in the Bay and her mother went home to get the binoculars. While she was gone, Chrissy and her friend again saw a bright white "star" moving around overhead. "It was just like the other night," Chrissy state. "It just moved around in the sky, and was making all these sharp turns and was coming and going." With the aid of the binoculars, the witnesses could see "it was just a bright

white ball of light." An interesting phenomenon was noted at the end of this sighting. Chrissy told me "the last time it disappeared when it did not come back, there was a huge flash that lit up the whole sky, not like lightning." I told

Chrissy that regular skywatchers at Shoreline Park had also witnessed this at other times.

I asked Chrissy how she felt about these two sightings and she told me "when my mom went to

get the binoculars and it was just me and my friend and we saw it again, I cried."

It should be noted that sky conditions on both of the nights that these sightings occurred were clear and with low relative humidity.

To report a sighting or experience, please call the Pensacola/Gulf Breeze MUFON Hotline at 438-3261. Keep looking up!

TOO MUCH COFFEE John Deering

THE ALIENS SOON REGRETTED THEIR DECISION TO ABDUCT MARTHA STEWART

ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE, Little Rock, AR April 30, 1996

Resident of Unicoi establishes center for UFO research

By Mark Rutledge

Erwin Bureau

UNICOI — Tennessee's newest town has become a headquarters for the study of UFOs and alien encounters.

Upper East Tennesseans who have sighted UFOs or been abducted by aliens can document their experiences with the United States UFO Information and Research Center — a long title for an office in the small trailer where Stacey McGee lives and publishes his own newsletter, *Skywatch*.

The newsletter is filled with testimonials of UFO sightings and serves to inform fellow UFO and astronomy enthusiasts about meetings, group sky watches and support groups.

The March/April issue reports several local sightings. For instance, a local minister was traveling to a revival in January when he and his family saw a "circular object hovering low to the ground," between Elizabethton and Watauga.

In the fall of 1981, something that appeared as a large red light

blocked the path of a Johnson City family traveling on Dry Creek Road, then suddenly "shot straight up into the dark, night sky."

Another 1981 sighting involved a "large, white circular object," hovering near Johnson City's National Guard Armory. The most recent sighting was last February when a man reported seeing a "brightly illuminated, boomerang-shaped object" flying in an easterly direction as he was driving between Bristol and Blountville.

Such reported sightings are common for McGee, who spotted his first UFO at age 10. An amateur astronomer, he's devoted his life to tracking UFOs and providing a communication network for others who engage in similar activities. "I think I've created something unique, and I feel I am a catalyst for bringing people together to share and discuss their experiences," he said.

McGee says he has about 2,000 members worldwide. He advertises his phone number, 743-2100,



Staff Photo by Mark Rutledge

Stacey McGee publishes a newsletter, *Skywatch*

as a 24-hour hot line for reports of UFO sightings or close encounters. "Our motto is 'People helping people to find the truth... the first UFO network for the next century.'"

Besides being an amateur astronomer, McGee is a fan of science fiction television shows like *Star Trek* and *Babylon 5*. "I think the human-created alien characters (in these shows) are actually alien-inspired," he said.

McGee eventually wants to build a museum and theater in East Tennessee devoted to UFOs, astronomy and alien encounters. He already has a design in mind: a pyramid with a circle around it. "The only thing holding us back is finding the financial backing for this project," he said.

McGee's research center will sponsor the UFO, Crop Circle and Alien Contact EXPO at the Gatlinburg Convention Center on Aug. 10. UFO researchers and authors of books on UFOs will be on hand to speak and present their materials. Tickets are \$35 per person before May 1, and \$45 per person thereafter.

Woman spots UFO in sky

By Lorie Hyten

The Hawk Eye

We may have had visitors from afar Sunday night. Or maybe not.

A Burlington woman called police to report an unidentified flying object about 7:20 p.m. in the vicinity of Division and Plane streets.

As of Monday afternoon, police had received only one such report.

The woman, who declined to give her name to *The Hawk Eye*, said Monday in a telephone interview that she was taking a 9-year-old friend of her son home when she saw the object.

She was driving north on Plane Street toward Division Street when she became aware of what she thought were very bright headlights ahead. At first she thought it might be an airplane flying low, but she lives near the airport and is familiar with plane lights. These were no plane lights, she said.

"It was like really bright headlights, moving real slow," the woman said.

The object traveled directly over her vehicle. She said it was at about the level of the treetops. She was unable to estimate the size, but said it looked similar to pictures she has seen of flying saucers.

"It was round, sort of octagon, very strange looking."

She said there were 10 or 12 lights on its underside. She had the windows rolled up and the car heater on, so if it made noise she couldn't hear it.

In fact, she was so stunned and shaken she didn't take time to make too close an observation.

"It was just kind of eerie," she said.

The woman said she did slow her car a little to look at it. She said a pickup behind her also slowed, but she didn't notice any other traffic.

She was certain the object was neither a helicopter nor an airplane.

"It was like nothing I've ever seen," she said.

The object moved west along Division Street. When next she looked toward it, it was gone.

The woman reported her sighting to police, who

referred her to the Mutual UFO Network, Inc. — MUFON.

MUFON is an international nonprofit research group.

Don Curtis, MUFON Iowa director, said Monday MUFON receives about six or eight reports of UFOs in Iowa each year, although there are sometimes periods with more sightings.

Curtis said he talked briefly with the Burlington woman Monday night. A MUFON field investigator will arrange to come to Burlington to interview the woman, fill out report forms and visit the location of the sighting.

Curtis said the investigator will try to find a logical explanation for what the woman saw.

"About 90 to 95 percent of all reports we get we end up finding an explanation for," Curtis said. "The majority of cases we find logical answers for. If it's still unusual, we refer it to a board of researchers. We have a board of researchers representing a wide variety of science and technology. They conduct more research."

The woman didn't know the driver of the pickup, who probably could confirm her sighting.

HAWK EYE, Burlington, IA Jan. 30, 1996 CR: D. Stangl

UFOS HOVERING OVER CENTRAL ILLINOIS

'These things are so far beyond us. It's leading up to something and we'd better be ready.'

By KURT ERICKSON
Pantagraph staff

The way some see it, you've got two choices: You can sit at home and watch TV shows about alien abductions and space travel, or you can get off your couch, grab your binoculars and check this stuff out for yourself.

- UFOS over Bloomington-Normal?
- Alien abductions in Danvers?
- Should the masses be scared?
- Maybe. Maybe not.

Ever since human's cocked their heads toward the night sky, the thought of visitors from outer space has been a topic of debate. Clearly, some folks think it's bunk.

And just as crystal clear are those who argue tooth and nail that "Close Encounters of the Third Kind" is not only a movie, but something that occasionally happens right here in the Corn Belt.

In Central Illinois, there is a cadre of residents dedicated to the investigation of UFOs and, just as importantly, the questions their existence inevitably arouse.

Paul Russell, a Pekin resident, heads the Central Illinois chapter of the Mutual UFO Network — known as one of the largest UFO organizations in the world. He and a band of about 30 regularly travel the backroads on dark clear nights and spot UFOs.

"Skywatches" are one way the group is tracking what's going on. Russell, a Caterpillar worker currently on strike, has focused his efforts in the Spoon River Valley in Fulton County and along a stretch of U.S. 136, which runs along the southern border of McLean County.

He's either seen or heard reports of abnormalities in the night sky, ranging from bright flashes to "The Mothership," a half-mile-long ship filled with flashing lights and, presumably, aliens.

With deadly earnest, Russell voices a common refrain among UFO investigators, "Civilization as we know it will collapse. Outside beings are smarter than us. It will happen in my lifespan. I know I'm going to have the last laugh."

The chief of MUFON's state office, Forrest Crawford of Collinsville, says the network has

been attempting to figure out a pattern of UFO visits — an elusive venture thus far. The idea, he said, would be to identify when the UFOs are coming, set up shop at the site and — well — do whatever you do when you meet aliens.

One MUFON member, Gary Hart of rural Bloomington, has spent about \$10,000 on equipment he hopes will help him zero in on alien visitors. He has measured underground vibrations, recorded "spook lights" on high speed film and spent countless hours in cemeteries, all in search of some answers.

"I don't know what they are," he admits. "But I'm doing something anyone else could do, if they know where to go."

With his equipment, he tracks sightings of his own, as well as others — some of which have happened during daylight hours.

"That's when it gets really hard to discount," said Hart.

A few years ago he was sitting in his rural Danvers home when a bright object appeared outside the window. He ran outside to see it receding in the distance, somewhere over Covell.

"It had no wings. It was about two miles away. I could have passed it off," he said. "I don't hallucinate."

Hart also talks of sightings of strange lights west of Bloomington-Normal in

July 1993. Although some people called a local radio station, none of the sightings were reported to police.

Just two weeks ago, in Champ-aign, a man watching a high school band contest at the University of Illinois videotaped what he believes may have been a UFO hovering over the west stands of the stadium.

Said Russell, "Things like that make you sit up and go 'Wow!'"

George Eberhard, director of publications for the Chicago-based J. Allen Hynek Center for UFO Studies, said 95 percent of the world's UFO reports are "garbage" that can be explained as either airplanes, satellites or planets.

After hitting a high in the 1970s, Eberhard said UFO sightings have tapered off. One explanation is this: "Aliens were here, now they're not. Sometime around 1980 or '81 everything fell off."

The marked decrease can be seen in Pantagraph files of UFO sightings. Few, if any, have been reported in recent years.

Carl Wenning, who heads the Illinois State University planetarium, said interest in UFOs has become "passe."

"The interest is just not there," said Wenning, who was last interviewed by The Pantagraph about UFOs in 1981. "It's been awful quiet."

Crawford said UFO visits run in 9- to 11-year cycles, with small blips every five or six years.

"It ebbs and flows," agreed Hart, who said 410 objects were viewed in the Bernadotte area in Fulton County during a six-week stretch in 1987.

But according to reports pieced together through interviews and publications, the frequency of sightings is on an upswing.

Just a few days ago in Pekin, Paul Russell reported the reappearance of "angel hair," a spider web-like substance said to be cosmic pollution from spacecraft.

He claims the frothy, white material is drifting east from the Spoon River Valley as spacecraft dart in and out of the valley. Samples are being sent to laboratories to determine the material's chemical makeup.

Francis Ridge, who heads a UFO investigation service in Mount Vernon, Ind., said two truck drivers traveling west of McLean on U.S. 136 in June saw the same UFO hovering in the sky outside of their rigs.

The roadway, according to the report, was devoid of cars. But once the bright orange object left the sky, traffic returned. An investigation by Ridge's group is under way.

In the past two months editors



The Pantagraph/STEVE SMEDLEY
UFO expert Gary Hart showed off a model of an alien known as a grey.

working the night shift at The Pantagraph have charted an increase in the number of people inquiring about possible UFO sightings. "We had three people call one night," said one employee.

Hart does not believe UFOs travel from faraway planets using traditional means of propulsion.

Rather, because they are so advanced, the beings have figured out how to warp time and can travel via "interdimensional" means — a phenomena not unlike the way he believes spirits travel through haunted houses and cemeteries.

"If you're going to get a butterfly net to try and catch one, you're not going to have much luck," Hart said. "These things are so far beyond us. We've only had radio for a hundred years."

Kris Vancil of Normal is unsure whether the UFOs are actually extraterrestrial or just denizens of another reality, perhaps a parallel dimension. In any case, she finds the possibilities interesting.

"If something is happening around me, I want to know it," said Vancil. "Too many people are experiencing these things for it to be totally untrue."

She contends we are on the verge of a cosmic paradigm shift brought about, in part, because people are starting to realize that humans are not the center of the universe.

Greg Brown, a Bloomington UFO

aficionado, said, "It's up in the air yet about what's going on. It's leading up to something and we'd better be ready. But what's our biggest enemy? Denial."

Said Crawford, "We're way beyond the proof that they exist."

Why, then, are there so many ready to dismiss the claims as quackery? Likewise, why do polls continue to show large numbers believing in UFOs and aliens?

The debunkers say belief in UFOs is the product of hoaxes, hallucinations, collective lunacy or, well, false impressions left behind by evil hypnotists.

The essential argument is of Gordian knot-like proportions. How can you prove the existence of aliens? How can you disprove it? The end result is a split into three camps — believers, debunkers and people who are too busy taking care of more earthly concerns.

Wenning said he'll believe spacecraft from other planets are visiting earth when someone can produce a specimen that can be studied, prodded and viewed.

"The burden of proof is on them," Wenning said. "I'm talking about stuff you can put your hands on."

"Remember, there are people out there who believe that Elvis is still alive," Wenning said.

Said Hart, "It calls for further study."

(continued on page 10)

Unofficial top places to see UFOs across America

1. Hudson River in New York
2. Gulf Breeze, Fla.
3. Spoon River Valley in Illinois
4. Sedona, Ariz.
5. Roswell, N.M.

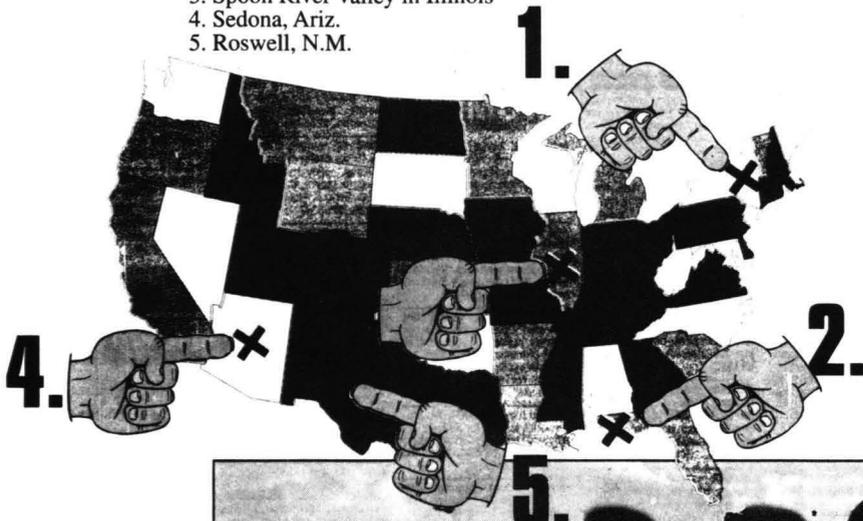


Photo illustration and design by David Proeber

WHERE TO LOOK FOR UFOs

Why sit at home and watch spaceships and aliens from your recliner? You could go out and see the real thing for yourself, according to Paul Russell, president of the Mutual UFO Network's Central Illinois branch.

According to Russell, a Pekin resident, and others, the following is an informal manual to use in your search for UFOs.

May the force be with you.

Where should I go?

Choice No. 1: The Spoon River Valley in Fulton County.

Choice No. 2: A swath through Central Illinois that follows the trail of U.S. 136.

Choice No. 3: Near the intersection of Interstate 155 and the Mackinaw River.

Choice No. 4: Just about anywhere you are free from lights.

Hint: East of the Illinois River, UFOs seem to travel in an east-west direction. West of the river, they go every which way.

Tip: Stay off of private property.

Why near rivers?

"Maybe it's 'Introduction to Earth 101,'" says Russell, explaining that UFOs have been seen placing probes into the rivers and surrounding earth to gather specimens. One of the probes sighted in the area looked like a badminton shuttlecock attached to a long telescoping arm coming out of a ship.

When should I go?

On dark clear nights.

They come year-round but fall and spring are best because the hot summer months mean the air is too hazy. "It has to be almost cloudless," Russell said.

What should I look for?

Every type of object, including the standard pie plate, cigar-shape, triangle and the H-shape — all common spaceship shapes. Many are illuminated by an orangish-red light.

The "mothership" is alleged to have made an appearance in the Spoon River Valley in 1987. It was described as one-half mile in diameter, with marquee-like lights. Most, however, are unmanned probes being controlled by either the mothership or from some interdimensional control base.

What should I bring, besides coffee? Binoculars.

What do I do if I see one?

If inclined, call the nearest airport to see if any airplanes registered on the radar. Go to area where UFO was seen to see if there are any broken tree branches or trampled ground. Calling police may result in humiliation.

VALLEY COURIER, Alamosa, CO - March 28, 1996

Suspected UFO reported over Snowshoe Mountain

By SUSAN BAXTER
Special to the Courier

SNOWSHOE MOUNTAIN - "It's a bird, it's a plane, it's — What is that thing?"

That's what Mary Johnson, Kris Kroll, and other residents of Creede were wondering as they watched what appeared to be a bright red explosion over Snowshoe Mountain in the wee hours of the morning March 22.

Mary and her husband, Ed, had been out letting their dachshund Cuddles take some air around 5:15 a.m., when they saw the fireball in the Southern skies.

"I saw what looked like a plane exploding," Mary Johnson said. "Then it seemed to stop, and had a bunch of little fizzy tails coming off it."

"It looked like the flares we shot up during the war," Ed Johnson added, referring to his service on the U.S.

Enterprise. "We'd send them up for light, so we could see what we were aiming at."

After staring at it a few seconds, Mary rushed in and called her neighbor, Kris Kroll, to go out and see it. Kris tried to take photos with her home camera, but doubted if they'd come out.

"I never saw anything like it," she said. "The tails off it made zig-zags. By the time I saw it, it was white, but still lit up the sky."

Creede resident Kenny Wyley also reportedly took photos, but was on his way to Las Vegas and couldn't be reached for comment. It is not yet known if Wyley's photos, shot with 35mm, came out.

As dawn broke, speculations were already running wild. The first suspect was the comet that is gracing our skies, the first to come so close to the earth in decades. But the comet was

traversing northwestern skies at that moment, and its fuzzy cotton-ball demeanor didn't match the fireball's description.

Besides, the comet held still, or at least appeared to. This thing was reportedly moving.

No local authorities anywhere in the San Luis Valley were able to confirm the sighting, but Undersheriff Brian Norton of the Rio Grande County Sheriff's Office said there had been another report of UFOs over Greenie Mountain March 13.

"There were four objects reported," Norton said. "And eyewitnessing claimed that two of them appeared to be shooting tracers at ear other."

Norton also said in this part of Colorado there is thought to be a "gap" in military radar screening. White Sands radar and NORAD's radar do not blanket all of the Southern part of the state, making this area, in theory, a

good place to test sensitive military equipment.

But Lt. Robert Hargraves of the public affairs department of Peterson Air Force Base in Colorado Springs, was surprised to learn of the sighting and was unable to confirm or deny any testing anywhere.

"We have no information on anything like that," Hargraves said. "I'm hearing this for the first time. We haven't even had any similar reports."

Rumors continue to fly in the media as to the origin of the fireball. Paul Harvey was quoted in a radio column that it was a military test in Texas. But no one at Peterson, NORAD, or Kirtland at White Sands were able to confirm this.

"One thing's for sure," Mary Johnson said, "if Cuddles hadn't had to go, we never would have seen it. And I sure am glad I wasn't the only one who saw it, too."

CHIEFTAIN, Pueblo, CO - April 30, 1996

Bright lights cause big stir in valley

By ERIN SMITH
The Pueblo Chieftain

ALAMOSA — The weird lights are back in the San Luis Valley — this time near Mount Blanca.

Alamosa County Sheriff's Sgt. Harry Alejo said Monday that for

four nights in row a Blanca woman has observed a "light" hovering in the area of Mount Blanca.

The Alamosa and Costilla county line runs up the mountain and it was not known Monday whether the light was in Alamosa or Costilla county, Alejo said.

Alejo said the woman, whom he identified as Helen Willhite of Blanca, sounded "credible."

A call to the woman's home was answered by a machine delivering the message to leave a name and telephone number and "have a good day in the Lord." The call was not returned by press time.

Alejo said Ms. Willhite's story caused him to contact air bases in Colorado and New Mexico and the Air Force Academy for information.

He said none of the officials seemed interested and would tell him only that "nothing of ours was in the area."

Alejo said he will take a video camera on the road with him and see what he can find and record.

Strange lights are not unusual in the San Luis Valley. In January 1994, there were numerous reports of lights, particularly a blue one

near Greenie Mountain, in Rio Grande County across the San Luis Valley, but there have been other reports of strange lights throughout the valley.

And there have been stories throughout the ages here of strange phenomena. Many of the unusual happenings have been included in a book by paranormal investigator Christopher O'Brien of Crestone.



[All foreign clippings courtesy of Timothy Good, unless otherwise credited.]

LANCASHIRE EVENING POST, Preston, England - Jan. 26, 1996

It's the final frontier for the X file tourists

UFO experts probe flying saucer photos

MORECAMBE can claim to have been visited by people from many places . . . but the latest tourists are apparently travelling further than most.

Ufologists in North Lancashire are studying new photographs of alleged flying saucer sightings above the resort.

A rash of unexplained sightings of mystery objects in the sky above Lancaster and Morecambe has seen some curious images being caught on film.

Photographer Steve Meads, 25, of Moor Lane, Lancaster, captured strange lights on camera last summer looking out across the bay from Jubilee Towers in Morecambe.

The photographs are being studied by members of Lancaster UFO Network (Lufon) who have set up a UFO hotline in response to the soaring number of sightings in the area.

In the past month the hotline has dealt with more than 100 calls from Lancastrians who claim they have seen unexplained lights in the sky.

Ufologist Simon Lewis said: "The image was caught on a time lapse camera. The object is travelling like a spring which recoils on itself. Judging by the way it is moving it is apparent it is not driven by any kind of propulsion system known to man."

Steve Meads said: "It was July 8 last summer at about 1.50am. I was standing on top of Jubilee Towers with my camera on a tripod.

"From the coast I saw this moving object dodging from side to side. I didn't hear any engines I just

By CRAIG JACKSON

watched it move across the sky in awe."

Lufon member Tim Matthews, said the pictures were exciting but would need to undergo vigorous tests before being declared a genuine UFO sighting.

He said: "We plan to go out to the same point where the photograph was taken with video and infra red equipment to hold a sky-watch over a couple of weeks to see if anything comes back."

North Lancashire's leading UFO experts are not ruling out a link between the sightings and nuclear installations, such as Heysham power station, along the North West coastline.

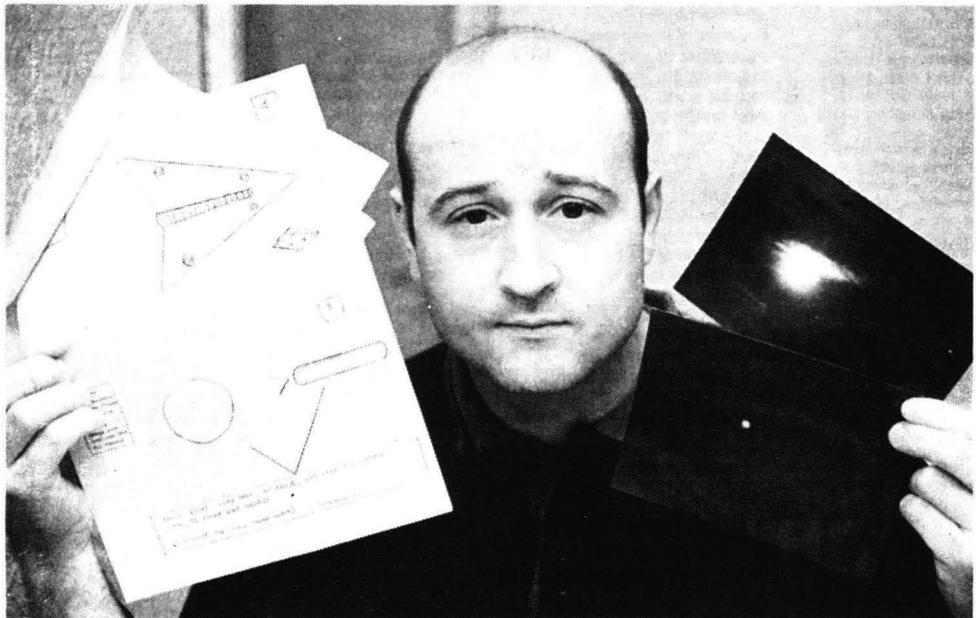
Acclaimed UFO Magazine is said to be interested in using the photograph in the next edition.

And the sightings are likely to be raised at the major UFO conference to be held on February 18 at the Headway Hotel in Morecambe.

The Lufon UFO hotline number is (01524) 843340 or 381520.



SKY VISION . . . Ufologist Simon Lewis of Torrisholme



Simon with evidence of craft (left) and daytime photo using time lapse photography

COURIER & ADVERTISER, Dundee, Scotland - Feb. 21, 1996

Children terrified by their UFO encounter

THREE BROUGHTY Ferry youngsters were last night reduced to what the mother of one described as a "distraught, hysterical state" after they were confronted by a remarkable unidentified flying object in the middle of Orchar Park.

Mrs Pamela Stewart, of Ramsay Street, said her son Cameron and his friends Graham Binnie and Joanne Leach—all aged 12 and pupils at Grove Academy—had come "belting" into her house shortly after 7.30, crying uncontrollably and with only Cameron able to speak at all.

"He said they had seen something awful in the park," she said, "and I automatically thought they had witnessed someone being attacked or something like that.

"Joanne was in a terrible state and Graham wasn't much better and then they all just started speaking at the same time about this aircraft which had hovered over them in the park and shone lights at them.

"None of them are prone to making things up and I'm pretty sure they haven't read anything about UFOs recently, so when I heard that I tried to calm them down as best I could

and then told them to go and sit down separately and draw what they had seen."

According to Mrs Stewart the resulting drawings, and the accounts of what happened, were so close that she has no doubt they saw something which scared them very badly.

Cameron, Joanne and Graham all described a "burger" shaped craft with domes shaped like the pointed ends of a rugby ball top and bottom and a band of both static and flashing coloured lights round the middle.

They said the lights were red, blue, green and white—the last being particularly intense—and that as they watched the craft moved silently until it was almost above them and shone three "triangular" lights in their direction.

Mrs Stewart said, "The kids said that's when they panicked and ran to the house because they got the feeling whatever it was was following them.

"As they ran they saw it heading over towards the Bughties and then out of their sight but I could tell by the state they were in that they had run hard all the way from the park

and had been badly shocked by whatever it was."

Mrs Stewart said she had asked all three whether it had not been a helicopter or some other "normal" aerial phenomenon but was told that it had hovered and moved in absolute silence.

The description of the lights baffled astronomer Brian Kelly, who was watching the night sky from the Mills Observatory in Dundee.

"The only things we have in the sky at the moment which can be confused with UFOs are Venus and Sirius, but neither of these is likely to give off those sort of colours," said Mr Kelly.

"I cannot think what would give off light like that."

Police said no other sightings similar to the object spotted by the children were reported last night.

RAF Leuchars said they had been doing some night flying, but not with anything which fitted the description of the Orchar Park UFO.

Control staff said they had not recorded any strange objects in the sky over Dundee.

OBSERVER, Watford, England - Jan. 26, 1996

Flashing lights mystery deepens

STRANGE flashing lights have been spotted again in night-time Bushey.

Police are mystified by the flying phenomena and appealed to anybody with further information last week.

So far they have only received two calls, but on Monday evening a sales planner spotted the lights again when he was driving from his work in Elstree to Watford.

Mr Andrew Elsen, 32, of Balmoral Road, Watford, said: "I was travelling along the Bushey stretch of the A41 with my boss.

"He was driving and obviously was concentrating on the road and didn't see anything," he said.

"But just as we were going past Quinceys, I looked up into the sky and saw these two red lights, which were about equidistant from each other.

"They were moving across my field of vision at a very high speed. It was pretty high up in the sky, about three or four times higher than a plane coming in to land.

"These lights were descending all the time, and the two red lights turned into white and red lights and became horizontal instead of vertical.

"They came to a halt above the cemetery at the top of Sandy Lane and Little Bushey Lane resembling a distinctive V shape.

"There was absolutely no noise at all. It was like a V shape and I could see the lights, these two red lights, but as I was looking back, I could see it just hovering over the

spot. The whole thing went on for about five minutes.

"I have never seen anything like this at all." PC Nick Mortimer, from Bushey, who is dealing with the inquiries, doesn't know what to make of the sightings.

"It is very strange, but the reason I believe it is because I received four or five calls the week before last," he said.

"People were reporting strange flashing lights between Heathbourne Road and the A41.

"I have had a couple of responses to the article in last week's paper. One man thought it was people flying their kites at night.

"Apparently the latest craze is to fly kites with lights on in the dark. But I don't think it was that.

"I don't know where we go from here. I have had no reports since the initial ones, but then again, I have not heard any answers either.

Lights that flash in the night are nothing new though, according to editor of The Flying Saucer Review Mr George Creighton.

"They are happening all the time and they are not worth reporting. I think the idea that people are flying kites at night is rubbish," he said.

"The things that are worth reporting are never reported in papers because they are forbidden. It is the crafts that land and the encounters that members of the public have that is happening all over the world all the time that papers never publish."

Chronicle & X-Files

In this week's episode of the Chronicle & X-Files, RUTH SUPPLE meets a woman who says an abduction by aliens has left her with special powers.

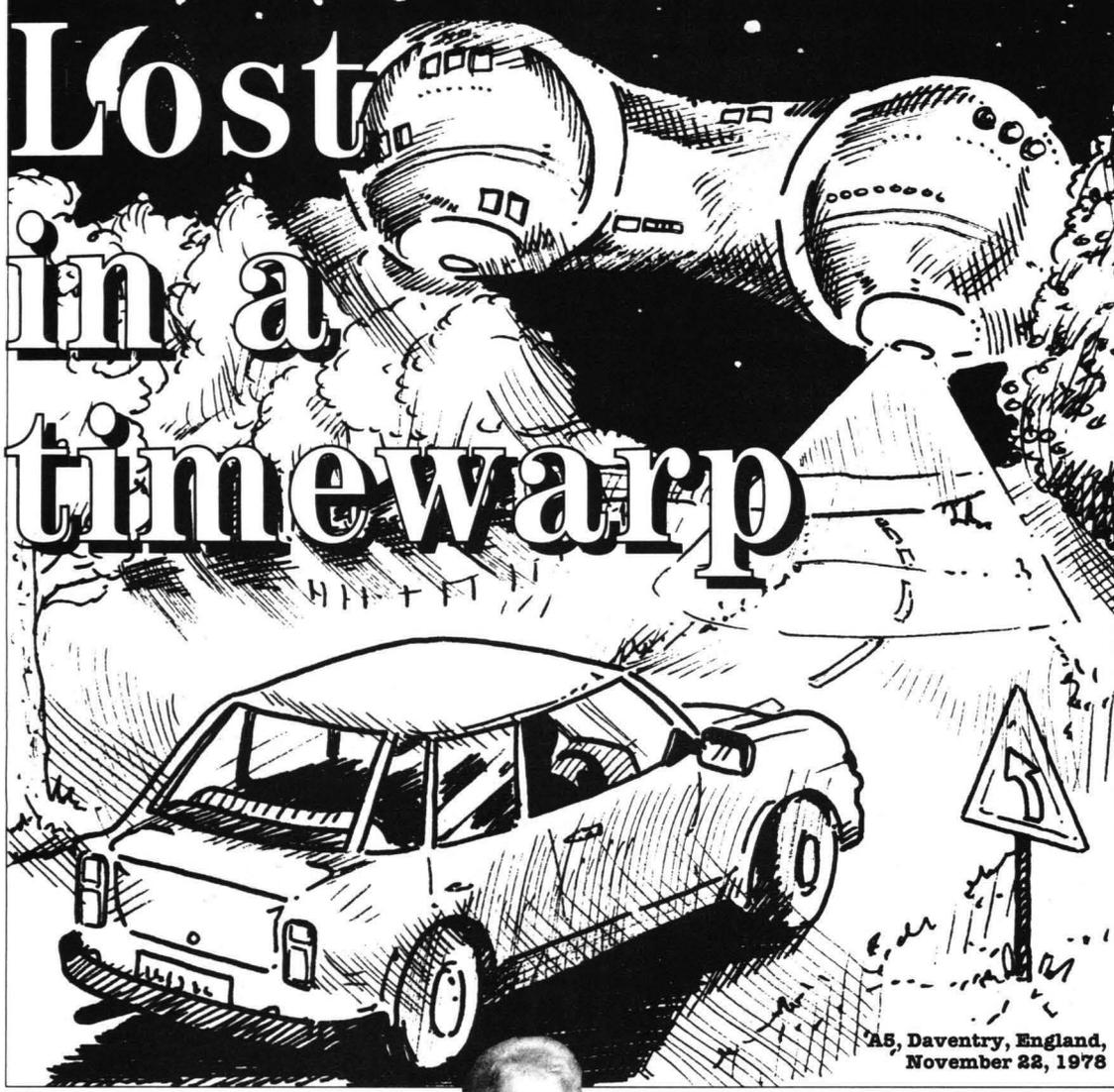
The truth is out there

Paranormal Investigations

NAME: Ruth Supple
STATUS: Features Editor
SECURITY CLEARANCE: Top priority/Access all areas of paranormal experience for X-Files reports



Lost in a timewarp



A5, Daventry, England, November 22, 1978

A WHITE haired granny and former head teacher married to a policeman is hardly the type of person you would associate with UFOs.

But Elsie Oakensen not only believes she has seen a spaceship, she reckons she was abducted by aliens on board and given healing hands as a result of the close encounter.

What's more, she's just written a book, *One Step Beyond*, about her "personal UFO abduction experience."

Sixty-seven-year-old Elsie's story begins on November 22, 1978 - when she was driving to her home in Upper Stowe, near Weedon, Northamptonshire.

Her journey from Daventry's teaching centre took her along the old Roman road, the A5.

"There above the road in front of me was a grey dumb-bell shaped object with a red light under one sphere and a green light under the other," said Elsie, a mother of three and grandmother of five.

"It was about 50ft wide and 100ft above the road and I drove

under it.

"(Being married to a policeman made me try and remember everything about it because I knew I'd be quizzed when I got home).

"It was about 5.15pm at the time and against the darkening sky it looked very smooth and plastic," she added.

"I didn't see any windows and doors, but felt compelled to stop and look at it.

"I couldn't though, because I would have caused a crash so I

carried on driving."

When Elsie took the turning off the A5 to Upper Stowe, she stopped to look back.

"The green light started to flash, I didn't know why. I carried on driving again and came to the T-junction. As I turned into the village, I changed up into third gear but instead of going faster, the car was slowing down and I came to a stop.

"My car had been serviced that day so I was cursing and completely forgot that thing over the road," continued Elsie. "My husband's always taught me not to panic so I put the car into first gear

and it started again.

"I went under the trees and into third gear. It was completely dark and all daylight just disappeared.

"I didn't know where I was, but I knew I was in the car and my hands were on the steering wheel.

"Suddenly a circular white light about one metre across shone on to the road by the passenger door. The light kept punctuating the darkness. A semi-circular light shone on to the road in front of the car, then it reached my door."

The next thing Elsie says she knew was the light had gone and her car had moved 30 yards down the road with normal daylight resumed.

"I was in third gear driving quite normally," said Elsie. "I drove home and found that the journey had taken 15 minutes longer than normal - I had lost time."

● Elsie Oakensen's book, *One Step Beyond*, will be available soon from Regency Press, priced £7.50

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Power to heal is from 'ghosts'

ELSIE has discovered new powers since her paranormal experience.

The 'ghost beings' have given her healing hands, which she has used to help others.

"It was the beginning of 1990 and I was in bed one night when my hands were getting hot - mainly in the palms - and my fingers were tingling."

Soon after, a friend persuaded Elsie to see a medium, who told her she was a healer.

Elsie developed her skills with the help of another healer and now offers to help others - and doesn't charge for the service.

"I put my hands on their shoulders and move them over their body, usually holding my hands a few inches away," she said.

"I can tell if there is a problem because my hands either get really hot or cold.

"But I won't diagnose a person's ailment and always suggest they go to a doctor.

"I act as a channel for spirits to give the healing and although I can help people I cannot guarantee a cure."

Elsie also believes the encounter has left her with the ability to do what she calls psychic art. "One night my hand started to shake and I began drawing this logical picture which was incredibly symmetrical," she said. "I had to have some kind of help - my hand was guided.

"I've never been able to draw anything properly before."

Just like Scully and Mulder on TV, the *Chronicle & X-Files* continues its investigations next week when we meet a couple who communicate with the dead to help heal the living...



Coming soon

ONE STEP BEYOND...

A PERSONAL UFO ABDUCTION EXPERIENCE

by **ELSIE OAKENSEN**

Aliens on her mind

HER encounter resulted in Elsie being psychoanalysed and hypnotised by the British Unidentified Flying Objects Research Association (BUFORA).

"Three people hypnotised me and I'd like to say that I had never read anything about UFOs before," she said.

Under hypnosis Elsie saw the light on the road come towards her. "This grey shape with light around it came to the left of the shape and right up to me," she said.

"Then another shape appeared on the right and they both came together and then went away. I called them ghost shapes, but they were friendly."

The experience didn't particularly affect Elsie until 1988, when UFO author Jenny Randles produced a book featuring the Upper Stowe incident.

"She said I had been abducted by aliens, which made me think yes, something more had happened.

"But I actually think it was a spiritual experience which happened; a clairvoyant vision from another dimension or time."

Pilots in UFO riddle praised for speaking up

By Peter Spencer

TWO pilots who reported a possible UFO sighting were today praised by their Ringway boss after their story was vindicated.

Experts have now agreed that what First Officer Mark Stuart and Captain Roger Wills saw on a gloomy night as they flew

above the Pennines may well have been a UFO.

Their boss Peter Tanner, the BA flight manager at Ringway, praised the pair who "bit the bullet" and filed a formal "air

miss" report to the Civil Aviation Authority, despite knowing they would be the butt of hundreds of jokes.

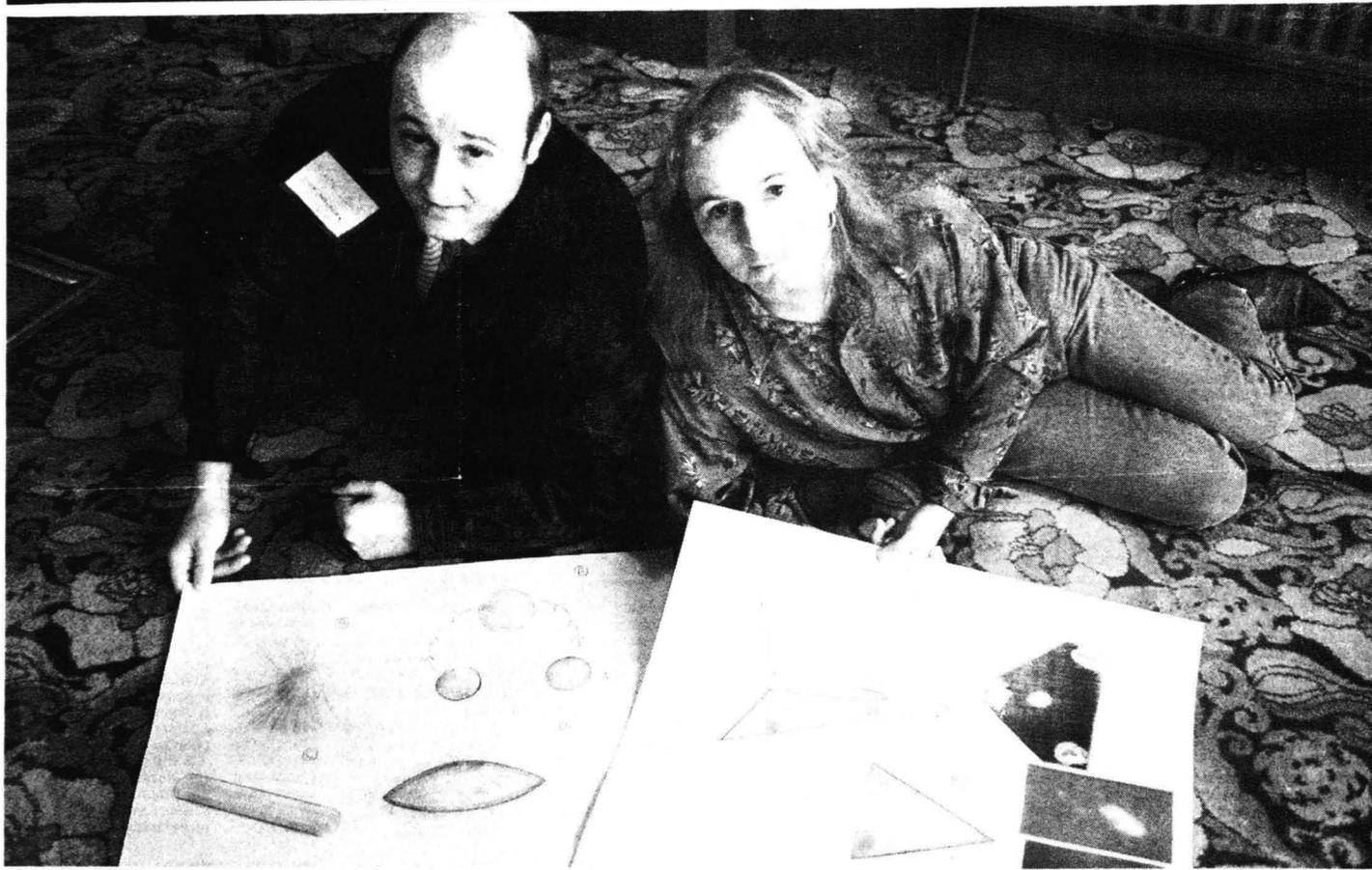
Captain Wills, 38, from Northampton, West Yorkshire and First Officer Stuart, 25, from Congleton, were heading into Ringway on a BA Boeing 737 with 60 people on board when

they saw a wedge-shaped flying object speed down the right hand side of the plane - without being picked up on radar.

The pilots made a sketch after the object sped away.

Now after investigations lasting 12 months the CAA has formally reported that the mystery craft remains untraced.

The triangular shape of things to come!



SKY'S THE LIMIT . . . UFO researchers Simon Lewis and Neil Hunter

THE BERMUDA triangle could be outdone by the Morecambe version if UFO experts who descended on the resort are right.

There has been a series of sightings of a mysterious triangle shape above the resort's skies recently.

And about 200 flying saucer experts and enthusiasts found Morecambe the perfect place to congregate and ponder some of the great mysteries facing mankind.

They were at the Headway Hotel for the Planetary Connections conference, hosted by the North Lancashire UFO Investi-

gation Group.

But anybody hoping to see sci-fi cranks dressed up as their favourite Star Trek characters and discussing little green men and flying saucers was in for a big shock.

This was serious stuff, with accusations of Government cover-ups and talk of advanced military technologies as likely to pop up in conversation as alien abductions.

The huge popularity of sci-fi shows such as the X-Files have created a more sympathetic climate for UFO investigators such as Simon Lewis to work in.

Indeed, such is the phenomenal interest in UFOs that Simon is preparing another conference dedicated to sightings in the Morecambe area for later this year.

Simon said: "It is time people forgot about laughing on the side of their faces and realised that something is going on, which is getting bigger and bigger."

"Crop circles are becoming more complex and more technical, UFO sightings are up ten times and the triangle object in the sky is becoming a regular sight."

"Even here in Morecambe, we had five sightings of the same triangular object, which measured the size of a football pitch. These five sightings were separate and were all made by people of repute."

"I would never use the phrase flying saucer. Most of the objects which have been seen are triangular or like a rugby ball or cigar-shaped."

"UFOs do not mean flying saucers. We believe a lot of these sightings are advanced military technology. Of course, it does beg the question, how has this technology been developed and why don't we know about it?"

SWINDON EVENING ADVERTISER, Wiltshire, England - Jan. 23, 1996

Close encounters of the flying object kind

WHEN Chiseldon-based Paul Horwood sits down to watch Channel 4's *In Advance of the Landing* on Thursday he'll have his feet planted firmly on the ground.

Unlike some of the American citizens featured, who don't merely believe that extra-terrestrial beings exist. Some of them believe they are receiving cosmic messages from intelligences in flying saucers. Others even believe they are aliens themselves.

But Paul, a founder member of Swindon's Borderland Phenomena Research Group, keeps an open mind about the chances of aliens landing on earth in the near future.

A self-styled sky watcher, Paul has been looking for signs that we are not alone in this universe since the 1970s.

But although he has seen some odd things, he is loathe to be associated with the space devotees who are making active preparations to welcome extra-terrestrials.

"I've seen a few things I can't explain," he concedes, "but they've always been distant. I once saw a glow outside Highworth, moving erratically and with a V shape cut out of it. There was no noise or vapour trail but it was doing 90 degree turns for about 90 seconds."

Paul says in the past he and co-member Gerry Cox of Swindon have liaised with RAF Lyneham to

Sky watchers confirm strange sightings

ensure that sightings haven't been the result of military manoeuvres.

"One case we had near Chippenham involved a chap who was out walking his dog and saw a Hercules coming over with a light dancing on the ground below it."

"The Hercules seemed to be looking all around it, but when we contacted Lyneham they were very cagey and said the plane wasn't one of Lyneham's."

Wiltshire is a most significant county in terms of unexplained phenomena, explains the director of Investigations at the British UFO Research Association, Philip Mantle.

He says the market town of Warminster, in Wiltshire, has been considered the Mecca of the UFO world since the 1960s when thousands of visitors flocked to the area hoping to catch sight of The Warminster Thing, as the frequent but unexplained glowing lights came to be known. The first recorded crop circle was even in a field of oats in nearby Westbury.

"I've seen the large orange lights

descend behind the hill, and though I think some earlier sightings were probably to do with the military, some couldn't be explained," says Mr Mantle.

"There have even been people in the area who have claimed they've met aliens there."

"I have the transcript of an interview with one woman who maintained she was abducted from her car by aliens and kept in a craft for several hours while they performed medical examinations on her. She described her abductor as a peculiar being - like a robot."

The woman is not the only person in Wiltshire to claim an encounter with aliens.

One Ed Sherwood, of the Marlborough area, a corn circle enthusiast, claimed to have been burnt during a meeting with extra-terrestrials.

And Devizes schoolboy Ryan Hodges photographed a white object with red bars at the top travelling fast across the sky back in 1980. The negative was confirmed as genuine.



Family favourite . . . Spielberg's ET

STANDARD, London, England - Feb. 12, 1996

Page boy

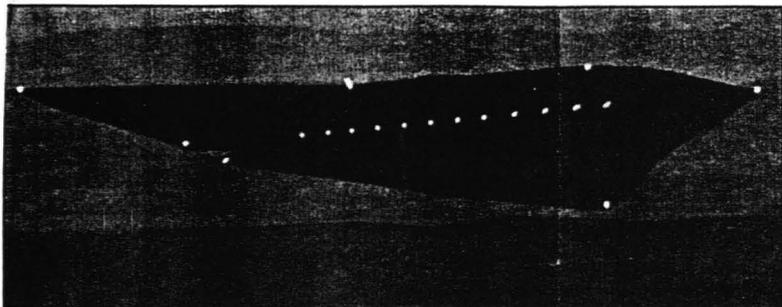
EXCITING NEWS for computer-literate Sloanes (surely an oxymoron?). The Internet now boasts its own "society magazine" - the chirpily-titled *Hot Gossip*. Its

features include slimming advice from actress Sally Farmiloe, and - best of all - a gripping page on "the unexplained" by one Nick Pope, a full-time civil servant at the MoD.

I should explain my excitement. Pope, formerly the head of the Secretariat (Air Staff) 2a Office, used to spend much of his time reassuring alarmed members of the public that their sightings of little green men from outer space were unlikely to be true. Last year, you may remember, he moved to another post, after declaring that he'd changed his mind and now believed in UFOs.

How delightful, then, to learn that Pope has finally found a grateful audience for his musings. "We monitor exactly how many people read each page," I'm told by *Hot Gossip* founder Georgina Brunl. "Nick's scores lots of hits."

Riddle in the sky



• Was this it? Metro News's own impression of the UFO, based on the pilots' descriptions. Graphic: Dave Collins

• The British Airways Boeing 737: The black wedge-shaped object flashed past it at incredible speed.

by John Jeffay

Two pilots saw it... now official report can't explain the UFO over Ringway

IT had been a routine flight for Captain Roger Wills and his crew on the Boeing 737 from Milan.

The 60 passengers on board had their seatbelts fastened for touch-down, British Airways flight 5061 was making its final approach to Manchester Airport... and then it happened.

Something dark, silent and wedge-shaped suddenly flashed past the cockpit. It seemed so close that first officer Mark Stuart ducked involuntarily as it went past.

And two seconds later it was gone. Radar hadn't picked it up and air traffic control had no idea what it was — but the two pilots were so certain they'd seen something that they took the high-

ly unusual step of logging it as an official air miss.

They believed that whatever they'd seen had come so close there'd been a real risk of a collision.

A lengthy inquiry by the Civil Aviation Inquiry has now concluded that it wasn't an aircraft — civil, military or remote-controlled — it wasn't a hang glider, paraglider or a microlight, it wasn't a balloon, it wasn't a bird, it wasn't a kite and it wasn't a meteorological phenomenon.

But they can't say what it was.

"Unfortunately the nature and identity of this object remains unknown. The incident therefore remains unresolved," the report concludes. It adds, significantly, that it can't speculate on extra-terrestrial activity, but praises the pilots for their bravery in having reported the incident.

Captain Wills and first officer Stuart still stand by their accounts, despite having risked ridicule from their colleagues, who are generally sceptical about reports of unidentified flying objects.

Immediately after their close encounter, on the night of January 6 last year, they both independently drew what they'd seen.

They sketched a dark, wedge-shaped object, possibly with black stripe down the side.

In size it was somewhere between a light aircraft and a small jet. It may have had a number of small white lights, rather like a Christmas tree or it may have been illuminated by its own landing lights.

It was definitely a solid object, it cer-

tainly came very close along their right hand side, it made no attempt to deviate from its course, it made no sound and as it left at incredible speed it left no wake.

The incident has aroused enormous interest among UFO investigators, partly because of the reliability of the two witnesses.

One theory, put forward by the British UFO Research Association, is that it was a triangular spaceship dubbed the Silent Vulcan by investigators, because of its similarity to the old British Vulcan bomber.

Another, by military insiders, is that it was actually a U.S. Airforce Stealth bomber testing its legendary invisibility on radar screens.

A third, by Jenny Randles, expert on UFOs and the paranormal, is that it was nothing more than a bolide — a large piece of metallic space debris burning up as it entered the earth's atmosphere.

LANCASTER GUARDIAN, Lancs., England - Dec. 29, 1995

The truth is out there...

Ufologists have seen the light



HAVE you seen strange lights over Morecambe Bay? Was that a flying saucer floating over the Ashton Memorial last night?

There are plenty of people who believe they have seen strange lights and little green men landing in the dead of night but aren't they just mad? Many, indeed most, would probably say so.

However there is a group of people in Lancaster who take the whole business of Unidentified Flying Objects extremely seriously and want to share their experiences and expertise with members of a new society.

The Lancaster UFO Network was set up last month and aims to bring together people in the district who are fascinated by the possibilities of extra-terrestrial life, or who believe they may have seen something they cannot explain.

The first meeting at Lancaster's Gregson Centre was full of bulging with curious people who had come to see if the organisers had two heads or whether a flying saucer would descend out of nowhere.

"It's not all happening in America or over the North Sea, there have been sightings here. I have seen strange lights over Lancaster."

Tim Suggett

Unfortunately nothing so dramatic happened but it was certainly a stimulating meeting, even for the most sceptical of newspaper reporters.

The evening was hosted by Tim Matthews and Lynda Suggett who, when they are not running their music shop in Sun Street, are keen 'ufologists.'

Guest speaker was one of the leading lights in the world of strange happenings, editor of the UFO Magazine, Graham Birdsall.

He came armed with tales of top-level government secrecy and

True and the usual helping of Star Trek. Ufologists will tell you (apart from the Trekkies!) that the goings-on in the skies above us are the real X Files and we should all sit up and take notice.

Tim Matthews told us why: "In several years time we will all be laughing on the other sides of our faces when life elsewhere is found."

Tim and his fiancée, Lynda Suggett, became interested in the world of extra-terrestrial beings and government cover-ups after hearing lectures by people like Graham Birdsall.

"We aim to be a completely open organisation of people who are interested in the subject and provide as much information as we can to people in the local area," Tim says of the network.

You may be surprised to know there are several researchers in the Lan-

caster and Morecambe area who are studying our skies and investigating sightings by members of the public.

Tim says: "It's not all happening in America or over the North Sea, there have been sightings here. I have seen strange lights over Lancaster. I'm not making any claims or saying what it was, except to say it was unidentified."

"As an organisation we remain healthily sceptical," Tim adds. "There are many people who would like to believe in Star Trek but this is a very serious business."

The Network hope to hold regular meetings in the wake of the crowd who turned up for the introductory lecture. Tim feels there are many people locally who would like to be part of a group

where they could discuss ufology without risk of ridicule.

The recent programme about the 1947 Roswell Incident in New Mexico got us all talking about UFOs and whether it was all a load of old codswallop. Everyone has their own theories, but the experts have pretty much discounted the alien autopsy.

Tim says: "I think the autopsy did a lot of harm because that's just a plastic dummy. However the video was brought out for a reason."

"We believe this is one of the best examples ufologists have. There were over 250 independent witnesses and if there was nothing going on, why were all those people intimidated?"

Tim or Lynda can be contacted on 01524 843340.

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EVENING POST, Nottingham, England - Jan. 22, 1996

Lights in the sky shine on

SIGHTINGS of UFOs have been reported across the county by eagle-eyed Notts folk.

Reports came in to the Evening Post after sightings of a low-flying craft within an hour of each other, nearly two weeks ago.

Since then, similar sightings have been reported in Nottingham, Broxtowe and Rainworth.

An investigation has been launched by the Nottingham-

based East Midlands UFO Research Association.

On January 9, mother-of-two Evelyn Doughty, 75, from Burton Joyce, was walking through the city centre when she saw a green light over West Bridgford.

"It moved very slowly towards Leicestershire when two big flashing lights came out of it and then it vanished."

"I would not like to say what it was. It was too fast for an

aeroplane and the colour was not that of an aeroplane."

Retired Norman Chappell, 64, of Coopers Rise, Rainworth, was in the garden on January 12, at about 6pm, when he noticed a bright light hovering overhead. He alerted his wife Margaret, 61.

"It was a really bright light and looked like nothing I'd ever seen before. I couldn't believe it."

"It was there for about 40

minutes. I've never seen anything like it."

The same day, at 11.30am, a father and his daughter were driving along Bradfield Road, Broxtowe, when they noticed a bright light.

The 42-year-old labourer, who did not want to be named, said: "It was bright as a light bulb, a long way off and high up in the sky."

"We stopped and watched it for two minutes before it faded

out and disappeared. I've never believed in UFOs before."

UFO Research Association president Tony James said he would be making inquiries about the sightings.

"I'll be getting as much information from these people as I can. I'll then be contacting airports to find out if it was an aircraft or something unconventional."

Mr James can be contacted on 0115 927 5623.



• Mr James.

EXPERT TO INVESTIGATE AFTER 'HOOVER' OBJECT FLOORS COUPLE



GIVE USA TEA BREAK: Jimmy and Margaret Allan were enjoying a cup of tea when they spotted the strange light (pic: Mark Jackson)

UFO couple see the light

By IAN KYLE

A COUPLE watched in awe as a bright red flashing light streaked across the night sky, bathing the Pentlands in an unearthly glow. Jimmy and Margaret Allan were mesmerised as it swept over the heads, purring like a Hoover. Now Scotland's top UFO expert, Ron Halliday, is probing the latest bizarre sighting over the Edinburgh skies.

another flash of light over Edinburgh. It flashed again in the middle of the Pentlands seconds later before it disappeared. It must have travelled about 80 miles in five seconds. I was totally gobsmacked.

Gobsmacked
The Dalkeith couple had gone for a run in their car when they decided to stop off in the Pentlands. They were enjoying a cup of tea when the lights suddenly appeared, and whizzed over their heads. Mr Allan (50), of Woodburn Gardens, said: "I saw this bright flash away down about North Berwick. "It sounded like a Hoover. About a second later I saw

"I have to say it was some sort of UFO, because I couldn't identify it." Mrs Allan (50) added: "It definitely wasn't any normal aircraft." Mr Halliday said: "I am fascinated by their report of the speed involved." He wants to hear of any other sightings. Ring 01786 832480. ● In a separate incident, Corstorphine man Callum Scott claims he saw three UFOs on Silverknowes esplanade at 2.35pm on Saturday. He said: "I saw three lights coming towards the shore, then they disappeared."

Flying saucers or flights of fancy?

DO you believe in UFOs? Even if you are one of those people who turn their noses up and scoff at reported sightings of unusual aircraft, you are nonetheless bound to be fascinated by the subject.

by Sarah Vincent

Now that officials at Manchester Airport have admitted a British Airways passenger jet had a close encounter with a wedge-shaped craft as it was landing, people's imaginations will be fired once again.

job in the MoD, and he admits some people think the promotion was to get him off the UFO desk where he was becoming convinced that some form of extra-terrestrial life was visiting earth from time to time.

But is it just our imagination? The two pilots flying the Boeing 737 were so concerned about the proximity and reality of the object — apparently emblazoned with small white lights and with a black stripe down the side — that they filed a formal "air-miss" report.

Pope, now a higher executive officer in the MoD, has written a book entitled "Open Skies, Closed Minds".

The mysterious flying saucer made no sound and created no turbulence, but caused co-pilot First Officer Mark Stuart to duck involuntarily as it flashed by.

"It is about how the UFO phenomenon is consistently ignored by people because of their personal prejudices that kick in the moment someone mentions the word UFO or alien," he says.

The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) launched an investigation into the incident — the fourth of its kind since 1987 — which happened on January 6 last year, but has now admitted they could find no plausible explanation.

"I went in to the job knowing nothing very much about the UFO phenomenon, not really having any strong views about it.

'Remarkable'

But the fact that both pilots, who were highly respected, made an official report must lend credence to the event.

"But the more I spoke to people who have done research, the more I looked back at literature, the more I looked at MoD history case file, the more I investigated in my three years, the more and more convinced I became that there are some very strange goings-on."

Graham Birdsall, editor of UFO Magazine, says: "It is remarkable that once again we have two highly qualified observers from respectable backgrounds who risk their professional career and good name by coming out with a story that we know happens to other pilots around the world."

His views were not well received. "When I made it clear that I thought a very small percentage of the sightings might well be extra-terrestrial that view was not very popular at all. I think I began to be regarded as a bit of a maverick. I was likened to Fox Mulder in the 'X-Files'."

"There have been 2,500 sightings of UFOs across the world by pilots and air-crews, both military and civil, and it is estimated only 10 per cent of sightings are reported because people are worried about their reputations."

Pope does not want to steal the thunder from his book, which is being published this summer. But one convincing incident he is prepared to talk about is possibly the biggest UFO case in the UK.

One man who knows what it is like to speak out in a hostile environment is civil servant Nick Pope, who spent three years on the Ministry of Defence UFO desk from 1991 to 1994 investigating reports of weird objects.

It happened in December, 1980, in Rendlesham Forest in Suffolk. Staff at two US airbases, RAF Woodbridge and RAF Bentwaters, saw a mixture of lights in the sky and actual objects.

He has since been promoted to another

They went to investigate a clearing in the middle of the forest. "A number of US Air Force personnel saw a metallic craft in the clearing," says Pope.

"Afterwards when they checked the site there were indentations where the object had been seen and there were radiation readings significantly higher than normal.

"That was pretty remarkable case because there were multiple witnesses and there was important trace evidence after the craft had gone."

Pope has not actually seen a UFO himself, although there have been some strange occurrences in his life.

Someone who has had many weird experiences is landscape gardener James Millen, from Putney in south-west London. The first UFO he saw was when he was eight years old and helping his uncle who was racing pigeons.

"You watched the pigeons left on the roof because they see anything coming in the sky," Millen says.

"Then all at once the pigeons turned and looked left over Putney, and there was a disc in the sky, and out of it were coming more smaller discs.

"These went off in different directions and then went back in again. The disc must have been there for 20 minutes."

Whenever Millen has seen inexplicable objects he has been with other people who have also seen them. He is not convinced they are aliens, but believes something strange is happening.

'Bizarre'

One story is particularly bizarre. In 1944 Millen was coming home from cubs one evening at about 6.30, when he suddenly felt lots of dates going through his head, which meant absolutely nothing to him.

When he got home — about 15 minutes later, so he thought — his parents were frantic with worry and had been out searching for him. It was 10 pm.

All through his life, Millen has had a blocked nose and nosebleeds, and 50 years after the cubs incident he woke up in bed one evening with a nosebleed and a small pellet of metal on his tongue.

Again two hours were missing from his life, and the nosebleeds haven't come back since, although he continues to see UFOs from time to time.

"I must make it clear I haven't got the foggiest idea what it is or whether aliens actually exist," says Millen.

"It is not as if I can get one by the hand and say, 'Come and meet Fred'. All I can do is tell people who do research into things like this so they have something to go on. There is definitely something weird going on."

Flying triangles baffle UFO buff

By STEVE JARVIS

X-FILES style unexplained sightings in the skies above Lancaster and Morecambe are to come under the spotlight at a major UFO conference in Lancashire.

UFO experts say there have been a flood of sightings of unusual phenomena in the night skies above Lancaster — and they're still going on.

Residents have reported seeing strange lights in the skies which would have TV X-Files Mulder and Scully dashing up to the city!

Many have reported specifically seeing an unusual triangular-shaped object with lights at each corner.

Simon Lewis, of the North Lancashire UFO Investigations Group, said: "Morecambe is going through quite a phase of sightings at the moment — it's just totally amazing. There have mainly been sightings of a triangular-shaped object."

Sightings

"We don't know what it is. Some say it is triangular formation rounded at the edges, some say it is a proper triangle shape with a light at each corner. Round here there have been seven sightings."

Local resident Simon is among the people who have sighted the odd object. He saw it running diagonally along Morecambe's seafloor, travelling silently across the sky. The same object was seen later accelerating quickly past Windermere by another witness.

By spooky coincidence, the mystery object sounds similar to one shown in a recent episode of television's X-Files, where it turned out to be a top secret plane being developed and tested.

The sightings are likely to be raised at the major UFO conference to be held on February 18 at the Headway Hotel in Morecambe.

Tickets for the full-day UFO conference are available from Simon on 01524 423760.

More UFO witnesses come forward

MORE local people have reported witnessing last week's unidentified flying object in the night sky over the Inverness area.

travelling home from the town to Westhill at around 9pm on Wednesday.

On Friday, the Courier revealed that local journalist Paul Breen and his daughter Susan (10) had spotted a large, bright salmon-pink coloured circular object as they were

Air traffic controllers at Inverness Airport also witnessed a mystery object and filed a report with the Ministry of Defence about a possible UFO sighting. Now Mr Breen's neighbour, Jean MacRae, said she also saw the object at

around the same time as she was leaving the Balloan area of Inverness to return home.

"It was a bright pink colour and very large," she said. "I don't know what it could have been." About 30 minutes later on the same night, Inverness surveyor Roy Sinclair was driving from Dingwall

near the Tore roundabout with some colleagues when they witnessed a strange shape in the sky for about five minutes.

He said: "It was a glare with a misty, funny-looking effect. I thought at first it was the moon being distorted by a trick of the mist. It had a ray effect all the way around it."



Ron and Veronica Howard relive Wednesday night's UFO encounter.

BRIGHT LIGHTS IN THE SKY

UFO sighting fulfills a wish

A quick glance at the sky on Wednesday evening has fulfilled a life-long wish of Cohuna resident, Mr Ron Morris, who believes he may finally have seen a UFO.

Mr Morris and his wife Veronica live at Chuggs road opposite the Cohuna airstrip and at first thought the brilliant light which illuminated the sky was an aircraft preparing to land.

"It looked like an aircraft ready to land with its lights on," Mr Howard said. "It was in the right direction to be landing on the airstrip but it didn't move."

Mr Howard said he first spotted the light somewhere south of Cohuna between 6.00 and 6.05 pm as he was walking toward his house.

The horizon was still red with the last of the sun slipping out of view.

"I saw this light and I said to Veronica, 'I think there's an aircraft coming in to land.'"

On closer inspection with the binoculars, however, Mr Howard noticed that the light was not moving.

He said it remained hovering somewhere in the distance for

three to four minutes, then another one appeared.

Mrs Howard, who had joined her husband by this time, said the lights, one of which was brighter than the other, kept changing colors and flickering on and off.

Mrs Howard said the lights maintained their presence in the sky for up to 15 minutes then disappeared.

The couple, who has lived near the airstrip since 1978, said they were convinced an aircraft was not responsible for the lights.

"With the binoculars it was just a brilliant light, you couldn't see anything else."

Mr Howard said he believed the lights were fairly low but was unable to judge their height or distance.

"It may have been six miles, it may have been 100 miles, I don't know."

Mr Howard, a keen sky watcher, said it was far too early for it to have been a star and dismissed suggestions it may have been a comet or a satellite.

He and Mrs Howard are both strong believers in the notion that there are extra terrestrial

life forms present in the universe.

"I definitely believe they're about, there's too many sightings for there not to be," Mr Howard said.

"If you believe what you hear there's one or two even crashed in America," he said.

"They've been watching over us for many years, watching our progress."

Mrs Howard, while less certain of the form extra terrestrial life may take, also believes in its existence.

In the 1950s when she was living in Market street, she says she, along with several other people, saw another UFO at the back of the former Murray Goulburn factory.

"There's got to be something up there somewhere," she said.

A spokesman for the Victorian UFO society said there had not been many reported UFO sightings in the district recently.

"Most reports are from Wangaratta lately," he said.

A spokesman for Air Services Australia could not deny or confirm that an aircraft was flying in the Cohuna vicinity on Wednesday evening.

More reports of lights in sky

Further reports of UFO sightings have emerged following revelations last week by Cohuna couple, Ron and Veronica Morris.

Mr and Mrs Morris said that on Wednesday a fortnight ago, they spotted a brilliant light in the sky which they at first thought was an aircraft preparing to land.

The hovering light was later joined by another, both remaining in the sky for up to 15 minutes before disappearing.

Mr Morris said it was far too early for it to have been a star and dismissed suggestions it may have been a comet or a satellite.

It is believed that at least 10 people have spotted illuminated objects in the night sky above and around Cohuna in past weeks and months.

Following reports from a 12-year-old Horfield resident, Mr Morris now believes what he saw was located somewhere between his home, near the Cohuna airstrip, and the Three Chain road at Horfield.

Mr Morris said he had pin-pointed the location of the UFO to no higher than 500 feet (150 metres) and no more than a mile (1.6 km) from his home.

According to Mrs Sue Peace, her son Tristan saw the light on the same night as Mr and Mrs Morris but took until the following Tuesday to reveal what he had seen, to his mother.

"He said there was this light in the sky, like a star light, and it just shot to one side," she said.

"It gave him a big fright."

Cohuna residents, Daphne and Jack Garner, have witnessed UFO-like activity twice in the past few weeks, both times while they were driving home from Echuca.

Mrs Garner said the first incident occurred on the same night as the Morris' saw the lights.

"We were coming home from Echuca when we saw this bright orange light that was pulsating, it was too early for stars."

Mrs Garner said she and her husband dismissed the incident until they read of Mr and Mrs Morris' ex-

periences in last week's Cohuna Farmers' Weekly.

Then on Thursday, again while driving from Echuca, the couple had another eerie experience.

"We both looked out of the window to the left, Jack commented that there were no clouds in the sky then said, 'isn't that a funny cloud,'" Mrs Garner said.

What they saw was a cigar shaped object which appeared to occasionally tip over from side to side.

Mrs Garner said that as the evening became darker, the object took on an orange coloring and appeared to keep pace with them as they drove toward Cohuna.

Mr and Mrs Garner drove straight out to see Mr and Mrs Morris.

"There were four of us watching it; it was in the sky for an hour," Mrs Garner said.

"It was a brilliant, fiery orange color and at times more red."

"It was much, much bigger than a star and very, very strange."

Other reports of possible UFO activity in the area vary as to the time and date of sightings as well as the form of the object.

A Gannawarra woman said she saw an unusually bright object in the sky near her home at about 7.15 pm on Friday last week.

"I thought it was a spotlight but it was changing colors - red, orange and whitish," she said.

"It was a lot larger than a star and quite low."

"It shot straight into the air and disappeared."

Vice president of the Victorian UFO Research Society, Mr Paul Norman, said he would be interviewing witnesses in Cohuna today in relation to the sightings.

Mr Norman said the society would endeavor to ascertain what was behind the mysterious lights.

"Most sightings are not really UFOs, they're other things - space junk, balloons, aircraft," Mr Norman said.

"They remain unidentified until we identify them."

CITIZEN, Gloucester, England - Jan. 10, 1996

UFOs suspected as sightings are logged

ALIEN activity in Gloucestershire was rife last year, experts claim, with dozens of local people flooding phone lines to report UFO sightings.

Chris Romer, who runs the county UFO records office, said they had received a barrage of calls, some of which were still a mystery.

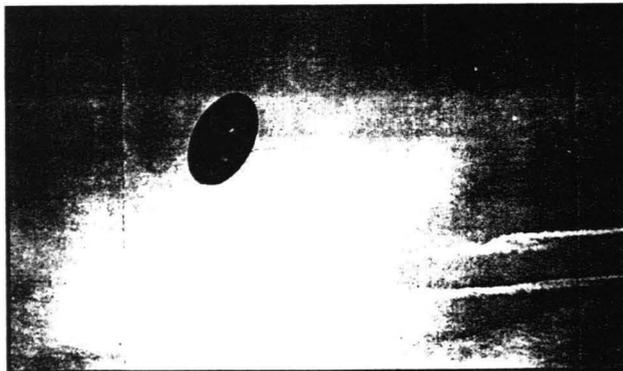
He said: "The summer seemed to be an especially busy time for UFO spotters in Gloucestershire with a stream of calls reporting unexplainable lights in the sky."

Exercise

"When we get reports like this we have to remain sceptical and see if we can find a plausible answer to what they might be."

"On one day we had calls from several people reporting bright lights in the sky near Cheltenham. It turned out there was an aeroplane re-fuelling exercise going on and what people could see were the warning flares and lights on the planes as they hovered in the air."

"On other occasions the sightings have



■ Could it be a UFO...? There were dozens of sightings in the county last year.★

been linked to illegally low-flying aircraft and not UFOs."

Mr Romer claimed there were some sightings during the last year which they could find no answer to.

He said: "There are several cases where

UFOs cannot be ruled out because we can find no rational answer to the sightings."

Other sightings have been reported to national organisations UFORA and the Somerset UFO Research and Investigations unit (SUFORIN).

Four of the sightings are listed here:

■ On March 5 a bright orange object was spotted in sky over Highnam. The object hovered for several minutes before shooting off at great speed.

■ Early hours of June 24 householders in Brockworth heard a rumbling noise. When they went outside they saw a white light low in the sky.

Two smaller lights were hovering just above.

The rumbling suddenly stopped and the lights flew off at great speed.

■ At 10.15pm on August 1 in Gloucester a witness reported seeing a huge orange-coloured spherical object in the sky. The object travelled at great speed toward the west.

Several minutes later a fireball came from the south turned round and a series of four ball-like objects appeared to travel out from the main light.

■ On August 8 a witness reported seeing three white lights in a line in the sky over Swindon Village near Cheltenham.

A larger light then appeared above them, turned round and moved off at great speed.



In search of ...

BIGFOOT

The hunt for the 600-pound Bigfoot, a myth or hoax to most scientists, is nonetheless attracting a growing cadre of true believers

By Maria Goodavage
USA TODAY

MOUNT HOOD, Ore. — Vultures take to the sky, and in an instant, Peter Byrne turns off the engine of his red Jeep and lets it glide to a silent stop. He steals into the forest, sniffs the air, tosses dry grass seed to check the wind's direction, and walks a hundred yards to what he hopes is a life's dream — a corpse belonging to a 600-pound, 7-foot-tall Bigfoot.

Alas, it's not Bigfoot. It's a beaver. "This time it's not a Bigfoot," he says, leaning over the freshly dead beaver's body and trying not to appear disappointed. "Next time it could be. You can never ignore any lead when you're looking for a Bigfoot."

Byrne runs the nation's most intensive, high-tech, well-funded search for Bigfoot.

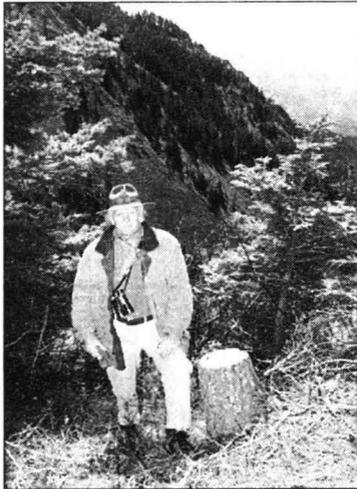
The Bigfoot Research Project is financed through a grant from the Academy of Applied Science, which supports research outside the scientific mainstream. The five-year project, which ends next year, has won praise from some university anthropologists impressed by its scientific rigor.

The man leading the search is a cross between Don Quixote and Indiana Jones. Byrne, 70, a native of Ireland who speaks with a refined English accent, has a penchant for khaki clothes and silk ascots. For the last two decades, he has leapt out of many a Jeep in pursuit of Bigfoot.

"Bigfoot is out there. Of this, I am certain," says Byrne, who's spent his life leading safaris in Nepal, searching the Himalayas for the Abominable Snowman and looking for Bigfoot. "We just need proof."

In June, his search adds an expensive night-vision, heat-sensing system. When a big animal triggers infrared sensors and automated cameras, phones will alert Byrne. Bigfoot scouts will be swiftly deployed.

The public is cooperating, too. The project's hot line — 1-800-BIG-FOOT — rings constantly. (It's accessible only in the Bigfoot-prone Northwest.) Last month, the four-person project staff fielded some 4,000 calls.



Expedition: Peter Byrne, above, heads the Bigfoot Research Project in Oregon. At right is a 1967 photo taken by Roger Patterson while searching for the creature in California.

Calls to the hot line often go like this: "Agghhhh! I'm being eaten by Bigfoot!" In the background, adolescents guffaw.

Byrne and his staff listen patiently to every call. "We're waiting for the one call that will lead to the big find," he says. "That's how we wade through the hoaxes."

The Bigfoot search faces widespread scientific skepticism. "I don't believe the thing exists," says Daris Swindler, professor emeritus of anthropology at the University of Washington.

Byrne knows hoaxes are plentiful. He keeps a photo on his shelf of an artificial-looking furry creature with no neck. "The man who sent us this has sent us five pictures, all fake," Byrne says. "Some people want attention; others want money."

Ecologist Robert Michael Pyle says most cultures have human-like giants in their folk history. "We have this need for some larger-than-life creature," says Pyle, author of *Where Bigfoot Walks*.

Pyle is skeptical that Bigfoot exists but hasn't ruled it out. "This could be a case



Patterson-Gimlin via Rene Dahinden

where biology and mythology correspond." For 200 years, reports of immense, dark, hairy bipeds have circulated in northern California, Idaho, Oregon, Washington and parts of western Canada. Believers say as many as 2,000 of the creatures may live in the region.

Some think Bigfoot, also called Sasquatch, descended from the extinct *gigantopithecus*, the largest ape that ever lived. They theorize the ape crossed over to North America and survived here in small numbers before dying off in its native Asia. Others think Bigfoot is a much closer cousin to humans.

But how could such a huge creature elude humans in the most industrialized country in the world? Bigfootologists say the answer rests in Bigfoot habits. Bigfoot is a gentle, nocturnal animal who avoids people. In addition, forests in Bigfoot's habitat are so densely wooded and sparsely populated that some planes that crash are never found.

One day, Byrne hopes to encounter a Bigfoot in the flesh, so he can get a pellet-sized flesh sample to help prove his case through DNA. Among the Bigfoot project's resources are a couple of helicopters and some special tissue sample guns to help with the task.

"I wouldn't want to hurt it. I'd love to go up to it and somehow communicate. It would be the culmination of a lifetime's work," says

Byrne, a far-off look in his intense blue eyes. Interest in Bigfoot is at an all-time high, Bigfoot researchers say. Visits to the three main Worldwide Web Bigfoot sites have increased dramatically. (The Bigfoot Research Project is at <http://www.teleport.com/~thrp>.) New Bigfoot interest groups are popping up, often in unlikely places.

"People say, 'a Bigfoot in Kansas? Are you crazy?'" says Matt Dennis, who founded the Kansas Bigfoot Center last year. "But I'm almost willing to bet they exist here."

Portland's 300-member Western Bigfoot Society is the nation's largest Bigfoot club. Its newsletter, *The Track Record*, reports new sightings every month. But club founder Ray Crowe warns members to "wear their skeptics' when reading the reports."

Bigfoot attracts its share of unusual fans. A San Francisco-area man is trying to start a Bigfoot/UFO museum. Others swear they converse on a psychic basis with Bigfoot.

"Some Bigfoot people are like Elvis people," says Pyle, who received a Guggenheim fellowship to research his Bigfoot book. "It's not a matter of them not having both oars in the water. They don't even have a boat."

While some reports are kooky, Byrne says many credible witnesses don't tell anyone: "They're afraid people will call them crazy;



By Bob Laird, USA TODAY

EXPRESS-NEWS, San Antonio, TX
April 29, 1996 CR: E. Benjamin

Bexar goat herd found decimated; predator unknown

A southwest Bexar County family awoke this weekend to find their goat herd decimated by unknown predators.

Jose Levya Nino and his sister Guadalupe found nine goats dead, three mauled and dying and two missing Saturday morning.

Almost all had multiple puncture wounds on the neck, slashed bellies and gnawed hindquarters.

The survivors from the herd of about 30 remain frightened and refuse to leave the safety of their pens on the 28-acre property in the 13600 block of Ladd Road.

Nino, who says he has been around farm animals since birth and has witnessed numerous wild animal kills, said the injuries to

the goats do not appear to come from a common predator. "If a coyote or a panther had done this, the dogs would have barked. Also, no wild animal would kill this many in one night and not eat them," Nino said Sunday.

He owns three medium-sized dogs, and even they appeared stressed by the kills, his sister said.

A sheriff's deputy contacted Saturday afternoon advised Nino to have the goats examined by a veterinarian or to burn them.

The case will be referred to the department's animal cruelty officer, who will not be available until today, a sheriff's official said Sunday.

sometimes their families think they are."

D.W. Patino, a former forest ranger who is now a police officer, and his fiance say they saw Bigfoot last year while camping on the Oregon coast. He's reluctant to speak of his Bigfoot encounter for fear of losing his job. "I don't want to be thought of as crazy," he says.

He says the creature walked along the beach without looking at him. "I was terrified," says Patino. "It was something none of my training prepared me for."

The next day, he photographed 6-inch-deep, 16-inch-long footprints in the sand. He sent the photos to Byrne.

"I was so relieved to talk to someone who took my story so seriously and had such deep respect for the animal," he says. "If I were Bigfoot and had to have someone find me, I'd want the person to be Peter Byrne."

Most scientists merely amused

In the scientific community, Bigfoot is usually good for a few laughs.

John Crane, a zoologist and biologist at Washington State, declares: "There is no such thing as Bigfoot. No data other than material that's clearly been fabricated has ever been presented."

In college, Crane and his buddies faked Bigfoot footprints. The locals believed they were real. "It was fun," he says.

But a handful of academics believe in Bigfoot, including a respected colleague of Crane's. "I don't even call myself a believer. It's not a belief. I'm absolutely convinced they exist," says Grover Krantz, a Washington State anthropologist.

But J. Richard Greenwell, a zoologist at the International Society of Cryptozoology, which studies evidence of unverified

animals, cites the example of the mountain gorilla, thought to be a myth until the early 1900s. "It's the largest known primate in the world, and it took a long, long time to prove it really exists," he says.

Scientists willing to suspend disbelief say the grainy "Patterson film," shot in 1967, got them to take Bigfoot seriously.

Jeff Meldrum, an Idaho State University anthropologist, set out to debunk another recent blurry video but couldn't. "There's more to these films than can be easily brushed aside," he says.

Meldrum says footprint evidence is most important: "Those that aren't obviously faked have such consistent morphology (form and structure) over the decades that it's almost impossible to believe even a highly trained hoaxer could have made them."

But for many scientists, even seeing is not believing. Daris Swindler, professor emeritus of anthropology at the University of Washington, says, "That Patterson film is just a man in a costume."

By Maria Goodavage

'Goatsucker' invades Tucson home

● 'It had big red eyes, a pointy nose, pointy ears and a wrinkled face,' says Jose Espinoza of North Palomas Avenue on the West Side.

By PAMELA HARTMAN
and JEN GOMEZ
Citizen Staff Writers

Hours before searchers in Agua Prieta, Son., claimed to spot a strange creature called the "goatsucker" flying north, a Tucson family said they had a visit from the mythic monster.

"It had big red eyes, a pointy nose, pointy ears and a wrinkled face," said Jose O. Espinoza of North Palomas Avenue on the West Side. "It mumbled something at me and hopped away."

Espinoza, 28, said the beast hopped into the bedroom of his 7-year-old son in the early morning of May 1. The creature slammed the door, sat on his son's chest, then hopped out the bedroom window, Espinoza claimed.

Espinoza said the animal, which smelled like a wet dog, left footprints and handprints all over his house. An aunt later identified the prints as those of the goatsucker.

Tales of the goatsucker, called *chupacabras* in Spanish, continue to be the favorite topic of conversa-

tion in Mexico, dominating news coverage, frightening children, and becoming a nationwide obsession.

"It's like a mania," said Keoki Skinner, owner of a fruit shop in Agua Prieta, Son. "My kids were scared to come out of the house last night."

The story of the *chupacabras* began last year in a small village in Puerto Rico. Villagers told alarming tales of bloodless goats, sheep and chickens dying from mysterious puncture wounds to the necks. Veterinarians pointed to wild dogs as the killers. Rumors pointed to the goatsucker.

The *chupacabras* has been described as a cross between a kangaroo and a bat, which flies, has

red eyes and smells of sulfur.

On Aug. 30, an Agua Prieta rancher claimed several of his livestock had been killed by the *chupacabras*. A search party claimed to see it, and sightings have popped up throughout northern and central Mexico.

The Sonoran daily *El Imparcial* ran a front-page photograph Thursday of a long-fanged corpse with the headline, "*Chupacabras?*" But a veterinarian concluded it was a cat that had died 20 days earlier.

Meanwhile, political cartoonists continued to have a field day.

"Do you believe in the political agenda of President Zedillo?" a pollster asked a Mexican man in one cartoon in *El Imparcial*.

"No," the man replied.

"Do you believe in the *Chupacabras?*" the pollster asked. "Yes!!!" the man answered.

Espinoza, a construction worker, said he awoke to noises outside his home about 3:30 a.m. May 1. He went outside, where, he said, he saw the strange creature at his front door. Later that morning, he said, the animal got in the house.

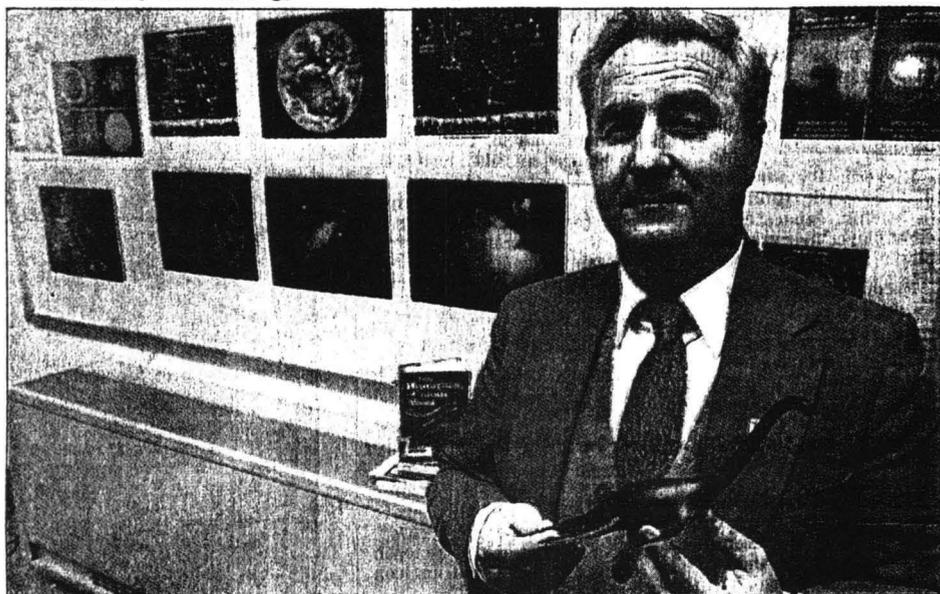
"I don't what it was," Espinoza said. "I just know that I did see it."

The first time he called police, Espinoza said, they asked him if he had a medical problem. They later came, and said a hand print taken from the refrigerator appeared to be from Espinoza's 3-year-old son.

PATRIOT, Harrisburg, PA - March 4, 1996

Satellites can look deep into Loch Ness, and infrared tracking equipment can be used to search for 'Big Foot.'

Yet, until science resolves these legends, man will continue to puzzle over such . . .



CHARLES LEWIS / OF THE PATRIOT-NEWS

Dr. William E. Stoffel will teach a course which will allow participants to take a scientific look at some of the biggest mysteries of our time.

Unexplained mysteries

Phenomena grounded in science class's focus

By MARY O. BRADLEY
OF THE PATRIOT-NEWS

Does Scotland's Loch Ness really have a long-necked, lumbering resident, or is that legend all wet?

Is the Bermuda Triangle just an angular spot on the map or an oceanic anomaly, a black-hole graveyard of lost ships and planes?

Do UFOs exist outside "The X-Files"?

While a course being offered by Harrisburg Area Community College may not close the book on those mysteries, it will give participants the opportunity to discuss them, dissect them and divulge their own experiences, according to Dr. William E. Stoffel, instructor.

"We don't draw conclusions. We don't say yes it does or no

it doesn't. At best, maybe," said Stoffel, who will guide participants through a scientific examination of some intriguingly enduring legends and extraterrestrial modern mysteries.

Stoffel's goal is to offer a forum for people to discuss their own experiences, exchange ideas and learn how to research the scientific data and records that may support the validity of the phenomena or expose them as hoaxes.

"I simply tell them to look at things with an open eye and to draw their own conclusions," said Stoffel, an educator for 25 years and chairman

of the science department at Middletown Area High School.

The course, titled "Unexplained Mysteries," will be held at HACC's Lebanon Campus, 735 Cumberland St. Classes will meet from 7 to 9 p.m. on four Tuesdays, March 19 through April 9. The cost is \$39.

Stoffel does not cover mysteries associated with the occult or supernatural, he said. He focuses on phenomena that are grounded in earth and space science, his academic area of interest. For instance, discussion of the Loch Ness monster would involve determining if the lake's environment could support "Nessie," supposedly a holdover from the Jurassic Period.

Many scientists and academicians are studying phenomena today, Stoffel said, and, as investigative tools become more sophisticated, many of

the legends that have puzzled man may be solved. Loch Ness now can be viewed from satellites, while the Army's infrared tracking equipment could be used to locate hairy bipeds, such as "Big Foot" of the Pacific Northwest.

"The more we learn, the more we can apply to resolving the question. The problem will slowly be answered because we will probe and probe," said Stoffel, who taught the phenomena course the last two years at Elizabethtown College's continuing-education program.

Participants are encouraged to discuss any encounters with phenomena they may have had, Stoffel said. "Sane, credible people have witnessed something out of the ordinary and kept it bottled up until they can get into the presence of other people in a group. When they feel your sincerity, and you give them some common facts that they can relate to, they discuss it.

It's like a psychological relief group for the mind."

Stoffel's interest in phenomena began when he experienced UFO sightings in the 1960s and reported them to Project Blue Book, an Air Force investigation between 1947 and 1965 that sought to explain the objects people were seeing in the skies. What Stoffel saw was never determined.

"From there, my curiosity took off," Stoffel said, leading him to pursue a career in earth and space science. Investigating and discussing phenomena are popular among laymen today, Stoffel said, because it provides a diversion from the challenges of life.

For more information on the course, readers may call the Lebanon Campus at 270-6309.

Twinkling Lights Remain Unsolved Mystery on West Texas Horizon

By Sue Anne Pressley
Washington Post Staff Writer

MARFA, Tex.—Tom Fuchs and his wife, Marty, had ridden their motorcycle all the way from Moultrie, Ga., to this high desert country in far-west Texas to view the phenomenon. It did not disappoint them.

The lights twinkled on the darkening horizon—a red one, a white one, and then a blinking threesome—tantalizingly distant, mysterious but somehow nonthreatening, as old and abiding as the surrounding hills. And then, just as quickly, the lights rearranged themselves, dancing and spinning before disappearing into the black night.

The Fuchses were delighted. They could mark another mystery off their must-see list—they had finally witnessed “the ghost lights” of Marfa. “We read about them a long time ago and put them on our list,” said Tom Fuchs, a maintenance supervisor. “I guess we just like mysterious things.”

Long before television programs began exploring the unsolved mysteries of the universe, long before the current fad of trying to explain the inexplicable, the residents of this isolated ranching community already knew they were in the midst of something special.

Ever since rancher Robert Ellison noticed the lights on a cattle drive in 1883, and discovered that other settlers had long wondered at the nightly show, several generations of Marfians have collected tales of being chased—but playfully—by the lights, guided by them, or just seemingly greeted by them. With their blinking, twinkling quality, the lights do sometimes seem to be signaling the human passersby.

“It’s been a phenomenon that’s been part of all of us that grew up here all our lives,” said Jake Brisbin, 48, a Presidio County judge, who well remembers the lights following the family car into Paisano Pass as a child. “This is not exactly the most exciting place to live, but when I was a kid in the ‘50s, the lights were exotic. It was different then, there were no other lights in the flat, and when you saw a light, you knew what you were seeing.”

No one yet knows exactly what he or she is seeing at the state-provided viewing site, along Rte. 90, nine miles east of the town of Marfa in a mountain-ringed stretch called the Mitchell Flats. Scientific teams have camped out here for long weeks, exploring the possibilities of static electricity, luminous gases, glowing mineral deposits, ball lightning and mirages. But they have produced no satisfying explanations, and have left as bewildered as when they arrived.

“The Marfa Lights are a distraction for us from knowing everything,” said Marc Wetzal, educational coordinator for the nearby University of Texas McDonald Observatory in Fort Davis. “It’s okay, in my personal opinion, not to understand them. If we knew them, maybe they wouldn’t be as interesting to us. At the very least, they’re awfully entertaining.”

With no scientific data to oppose them, many residents would just as soon attribute the lights to the wanderings of the Apache war chief Al-sate, who was caught and executed by the Mexican Rurales in the 1860s, and whose spirit is said to haunt the surrounding mountains. It makes for a good, romantic story, and as resident Alma Cabezuola said, “Nobody’s been able to say it isn’t so.”

There is no pattern to the lights, that is for sure. Although they ap-

pear almost nightly, always emanating from somewhere east of the Chinati Mountains, they never seem to display the same show twice. Viewers say they have seen them divide and separate, glow softly as a star, then brighten to the intensity of a spotlight, advance and recede, pop on and off. They have been described as green, red, pink, blue, yellow, and white. More dramatic tales, difficult to confirm, have had them racing alongside cars, illuminating them with a white-hot brilliance, before giving up the chase in a sharp curve along Rte. 90.

But everyone agrees the lights have never harmed a soul.

“Oddly enough, the idea of being scared has never really been reported,” Brisbin said. “There is some-

thing—I don’t know what it is—but a great number of people seem to say they have a feeling of calmness come over them when they see the lights.”

In nearby Marfa (population 2,400), any residual calmness, however, gives way to an uncommon frenzy each Labor Day weekend as the Marfa Lights Festival is held, and 10,000 viewers pour in to fill the motel rooms in three counties. The festival is an economic boon to an area that, until the recent popularity of the lights, had been best known for the filming of the 1955 Elizabeth Taylor-Rock Hudson epic, “Giant,” and as the site for the highest golf course in Texas (at 4,882 feet.)

“I have no idea what the lights are and, like most people in town, we

don’t want to know,” said Connie Brisbin, president of the chamber of commerce and wife of Jake Brisbin. “We’re just glad they’re there.”

On a recent dark, wind-swept night, the group gathered at the Marfa Lights viewing site could say much the same thing. Weekends, as many as 25 cars might converge on the spacious lot, and this evening brought out Paul Campbell, a Marfa funeral director, with his wife and visiting sister-in-law, and Debbie Garcia and Pat DuBois, sisters from Midland, who drove over from their camping site.

The wind, gusting to 40 mph, whipped the viewers’ hair into their faces, and a freight train hurtled by, letting loose with a lonesome whistle. But no one admitted to finding

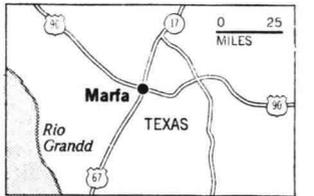
the scene spooky, even as the lights began dancing on the southwestern horizon, just to the right of the distant red tower light.

“Living here, you tend to be a Marfa Lights guide for all visiting relatives,” said Campbell, pointing out the light changes. “Oh look, there’s a big one.”

The group fell silent as they watched. “There’s two side by side,” Campbell said. “Boy, I don’t know what it is. I can’t even venture a guess.”

“I think it’s Indian spirits,” Garcia murmured, her eyes fixed on the horizon. “I really and truly do.”

And, as the lights bobbed up and down, now red, now green, now burning white, that seemed as good a guess as any.



USA TODAY, Arlington, VA - May 15, 1996 CR: J. Trainor

The ‘Goat Sucker’ legend claws its way into Texas

By Fernando Del Valle
The Associated Press

DONNA, Texas — Sylvia Ybarra remembered what she had seen on TV when she found Nena, her pet goat, dead with three puncture wounds in its neck.

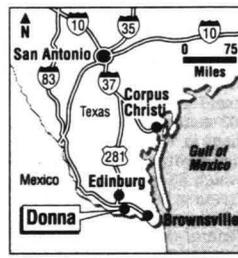
Then she got scared. “I think it’s watching over us,” Ybarra, 19, said under a full moon. “It might happen again. We never know when it’s going to come back.”

“It” is Chupacabra — literally, the Goat Sucker. For months, the image of a creature with long claws, glowing eyes and squat body has been showing up on Spanish-language news shows, along with feverish talk about livestock mysteriously slain in the dead of night, with puncture wounds but not a trace of blood.

It was only a matter of time before Chupacabra fever took a bite out of the Rio Grande Valley, after sweeping across Latin America from its point of origin in Puerto Rico.

With the help of a song, a video game and even an Internet web page, the Spanish-language media have transformed the Chupacabra into legend, some observers say.

It’s no surprise, because the Spanish-language media have



hyped the story since it began to unfold last year in Puerto Rico, said Tony Zavaleta, an anthropologist at the University of Texas at Brownsville.

“That’s typical of hysteria,” he said. “In the technical world it spreads almost instantaneously. I would call it pop hysteria.”

Ybarra, who found her 6-year-old goat in the front of its flimsy shed two weeks ago, believes it wore the tell-tale marks of the Chupacabra.

Her mother, Maria, is afraid for the children who play where the prickly pear grows tall in rural southern Donna.

An examination of the goat revealed that it was probably attacked by a dog and the bites became infected, Weslaco veterinarian Steve Edelstein said.

The last time such paranor-

mal hysteria cropped up in the Valley was in the mid-1970s, when sightings of what may have been a stray condor were linked to a rash of mutilated cattle, Zavaleta said. “In many cases, the blood was removed down to the last drop,” he said. “It was real weird,” said Brownsville rancher Sam Martin, who found one of his bulls dead in the early 1970s. “There was no blood around it, no tracks.”

The hysteria prompted a corrido, or folk song, *El Pajaro de Robe*, or *The Crazy Bird of Robstown*, said Beltran Garcia, owner of a record store in Kingsville.

Last August, some residents of Canvanas, Puerto Rico, claimed they’d spotted the Chupacabra and blamed it for the death of about 150 animals, said Jose Soto, the city’s mayor. “I haven’t seen it yet, but I know of people who saw it. It attacks so fast, everything from horses to sheep. It sucks out the blood completely,” Soto said.

Soto said he thinks the creature could be from outer space.

By late March, the legend had made its way across the Florida Straits, where the creature was said to have killed about 40 animals in three days in a rural section of northwest Miami.

ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE,
Little Rock, AR - May 25, 1996

Other days

25 years ago

May 25, 1971

TEXARKANA — The large, hairy “monster” that allegedly attacked a Fouke resident May 2 has been sighted again. Three Texarkana residents were returning from a trip Saturday night when the creature crossed U.S. 71 in front of their automobile.

Moon visionary charges NASA with cover-up

By HARRY F. ROSENTHAL
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The man who sought to convince the world there was a human-like face peering at us from Mars now is trying to show that someone, sometime, left “a glass dome” and other huge structures on the moon.

What’s more, says Richard Hoagland, NASA knew it from photographs taken by Apollo astronauts and has been hiding the fact for nearly three decades.

“Our response is, it’s not true,” said NASA headquarters spokesman Brian Welch. “Everything we found, we made public.”

Hoagland, who takes his claims of discovery on the lecture circuit, brought six engineers and scientists and a bunch of fuzzy photographs to a news confer-



ence to support his contention. He spoke of something called “hyperdimensional dynamics” at work on Mars, on the moon and in evidence at the ancient Stonehenge site in Great Britain.

Hoagland said recent reviews of pictures taken on the lunar surface by the astronauts of Apollos 12 and 14 showed some of the structures.

“It’s not true,” said Alan Bean of Apollo 12. “No one, certainly not me and Pete Conrad, who I was with the whole time, saw anything that suggested ancient civilizations.”

And it wasn’t because they weren’t looking. Said Bean: “We wanted to see those things. We wanted to find something like that because it would be so wonderful to find it.”

Hoagland described the objects that he said could be seen from official NASA photographs, most taken by Apollo astronauts, variously as “a Grecian temple,” looping cables, a large blob of glass and a 1½-mile high formation he called a “shard.”

To the unschooled ob-

server, the objects looked like magnified blobs of dirt on the window through which the photos were taken.

Hoagland has made such claims for years. He got wide publicity in 1988 by suggesting that a mile-wide rock, which appeared to be carved into a human or ape-like face, was part of a “city” on Mars.

NASA spokesman Welch said the agency had not investigated the claims.

“It seems to us kind of a waste of time,” he said.

DAILY NEWS, Anchorage, AK - March 22, 1996

CR: J. & L. Nicholson

EMPIRE, Juneau, AK
April 2, 1996

Military research questions raised

■ Inquiring legislators want to know what HAARP is all about

By JEANINE POHL

THE JUNEAU EMPIRE
Spurred by constituent complaints, legislators held a hearing today about a military research project outside Gakona, northeast of Glenallen.

The High-altitude Active Auroral Research Project, known as HAARP, was described by supporters as benign energy research and by critics as having the capability of permanently altering the Earth's atmosphere and controlling people's minds.

The House State Affairs Committee

— “ —
I'm really not sure, still, what you're studying.

Rep. Gene Kubina

— “ —
While technical details of the project are extremely complex, the site basically uses a field of antennas to direct energy into the ionosphere, the band of atmosphere between 35 and 500 miles above Earth's surface.

The facility is operated intermittently by the Department of Defense and is not now in use.

The research intent of HAARP is to improve radio communications and detect possible underground weapons, a government spokesman said.

But House members said they want to know more about the government's research.

"I'm really not sure, still, what you're studying," said Rep. Gene Kubina. The Valdez Democrat asked for today's hearing because people in his district, which includes Gakona, have written and called with questions about HAARP.

Kubina suggested an oversight committee be formed so people in the region have an independent entity to go to for more information.

The Department of Defense pledged to improve its public information efforts.

HAARP project director John Heckscher also downplayed concerns, saying the antennas will transmit no more energy into the ionosphere than would be produced by four diesel locomotives.

The U.S. Navy and Air Force are considering using radio paths through the ionosphere for communications and navigation, according to written information provided by the Defense Department. The department is also studying the ionosphere as part of planning for possible space-based facilities.

Anchorage researcher Nick Begich published his own book last year about HAARP that raises a host of questions about possible military applications of the research, from shooting satellites out of space and altering worldwide weather patterns to global mind control.

"What we're concerned about is the direction of this research and where it goes," Begich said from Anchorage. "Any weapons development in its early stages can be characterized as research."

Begich's book, "Angels Don't Play this HAARP," was dismissed by Syun-Ichi Akasofu, director of the University of Alaska

Fairbanks' Geophysical Institute. "Professional scientists cannot really comment on the science fiction version of HAARP," Akasofu said.

Juneau free-lance writer Mark Farmer recommended the HAARP project have oversight independent of the military, perhaps through an international treaty like those that govern research in Antarctica. Farmer, who has written about HAARP for Popular Science magazine, said he's generally in favor of the program, but "the oversight stinks."

Rep. Scott Ogan, a Palmer Republican, said a wide variety of people in his district have raised concerns about the HAARP project. He said he understood their worries, given the federal government's past record of performing experiments on unknowing citizens.

Heckscher pledged to provide more information about the project to Alaskans.

Information is available on two HAARP home pages on the World Wide Web.

The official home page address is <http://server5550.itd.nrl.navy.mil/haarp.html>. The critics' home page address is <http://www.geocities.com/CapitolHill/1606/akhaarp.htm>

CONSTITUTION, Atlanta, GA - April 8, 1996

MYSTERIES

Student's site traces trail of haunting chupacabra

By Maria Elena Fernandez
STAFF WRITER

You might have seen a *chupacabra* in the Georgia countryside terrorizing farm animals, although you probably didn't know what it was.

Or maybe it was getting off an airplane at Hartsfield International Airport, or floating in the galaxies above.

Originally from Puerto Rico, *chupacabras* recently have been sighted in Latin communities in Miami, New York and California. Nobody knows for sure what the creature looks like, but one thing is for certain: *Chupacabras* are deadly, and they move around a lot.

Now, you can also get to know *chupacabras* on the World Wide Web, thanks to a Princeton University student who has designed a site for news about Puerto Rico's version of the Abominable Snowman.

Literally, *chupacabra* means "goat-sucker," but descriptions of the mystery creature are much more varied than that.

Some say it's an extraterrestrial; others depict it as a half-man, half-beast vampire that attacks farm animals by puncturing them twice on the neck and draining their blood.

It also has been described as a kangaroo-like animal that leaves a sulfurlike stench, or a pantherlike creature with red eyes and snakelike tongue.

In San Juan, people testify that they have seen the enigmatic creature walking down the street or leaping over trees in a single bound. Others in Miami swear they have seen the creature at the airport, waiting for a flight to its next destination.

But by all accounts, it preys on animals, and some people are worried it might someday attack humans as well.



"This is a valid mystery," said Hector Armstrong, a 23-year-old history major at Princeton who decided to put the *chupacabras* on the Internet as he was practicing how to design Web pages.

A native of Puerto Rico, Armstrong heard about the *chupacabra* in his homeland, which has been abuzz with stories about the creature for more than a year.

"Even though there are many theories, nobody has explained it fully to the satisfaction of everyone," Armstrong said. "And the fact is that animals have been dying, and there is yet to be an explanation for that. Why it's only attacking Hispanic communities? I have no idea. But I find it interesting to see how people react."

In Puerto Rico, hundreds of goats, sheep, rabbits, chickens, cats and dogs have died when their blood was drained, sometimes even when locked cages seem undisturbed. A former Puerto Rican police detective, known as Chemo Jones for his Indiana Jones-like exploits, is leading search parties through mountain foliage on the island. Nothing conclusive has been found.

Last month, nearly 50 furry animals died in Miami, the

chupacabra their alleged killer. Miamians have created songs and poems about the creature, and vendors are pushing T-shirts

on the streets of South Florida and New York.

One of the songs, written in Spanish by a fifth-grade class in Miami, is on the Web, along with a report from UFO trackers who went to Puerto Rico to investigate the killings.

"It has reached such a level that I'm sure that at least half of the stories or sightings are exaggerations or people just wanting to see something," Armstrong said.

Sounds like a mystery even top "X-Files" agent Fox Mulder may have trouble cracking.

But the truth is out there.

Access it at <http://www.princeton.edu/~accion/chupa.html>.

ARIZONA DAILY STAR, Tucson, AZ - May 14, 1996
EARTHWEEK: A DIARY OF THE PLANET

Bloodsuckers



Police in the Mexican state of Sinaloa set up nets, traps and cages to try to capture a vampire-like animal that has attacked pets and small animals. Known locally as "Chupacabra," or "goatsucker," the creature has killed 100 goats, sheep and hens in five Mexican states. A spokesman for the Institute of Animal Pathology in Culiacan confirmed that the dead animals had regularly spaced puncture marks in the back of the head or neck, adding that attacks of the Chupacabra have also been reported in Puerto Rico and Central America. Villagers are baffled because the victims are left uneaten after their blood has been drained. Vigilante groups are being formed to track down and kill the creature responsible, thought to be a vampire bat, wolf or large cat.

CR: S. Atlanti

SAND MOUNTAIN REPORTER, Albertville, AL - Feb. 20, 1996

Investigations continue in deaths

By WAYNE RUPLE
and SHELLEY GILLIAM
Reporter Staff Writers

Mutual UFO Network investigator Sue Pitts said she is awaiting lab reports before commenting on recent cow mutilations in Marshall County.

Investigators responded Feb. 9 to a call from James Pitman of Geraldine who's Holstein cow was found dead in a pasture on State Route 75.

The cow had a strange wound on its' neck and investigators were unable to find any evidence of predator tracks or blood around the dead animal.

A Marshall County Sheriff's Department investigator said tissue samples have been sent to two universities for analysis and results are expected in a week or two.

Following the Pitman case, five additional incidents were reported involving dead cows in the Asbury, Union Grove and Boaz areas.

The sheriff's investigator said he believed the Union Grove deaths were probably caused by predators, but there was some question regarding the Asbury incident.

Milton Rains of 700 Asbury Road reported to the sheriff's department finding a calf dead with an incision in its jaw and skin missing. Also found was an incision in the calf's buttock area with what looked like the removal of most of the calf's internal organs.

The only blood found near the animal was a small pool of blood next to the calf's mouth. The sheriff's investigator said he didn't find any tracks or evidence of what might have caused the wounds and no witnesses who saw or heard anything in the area.

Pitts said she has visited the Rains and Pitman farms. Asked if the Pitman case and others could be the beginning of a rehash of what cattle farmers experienced in Marshall and DeKalb counties several years ago, Pitts said "I wouldn't even want to speculate on that."

Pitts did request that area farmers and law enforcement officials call her at 205-533-7321 when or if other incidents occur. "We are interested in examining both - whether farmers think it is a death due to predators or

something else. There is a difference and in the case of a predator death, it is not a clean scene. There is debris strawn around."

She also explained that by taking samples at the scene, she can have a lab study these samples and pretty much determine the type of predator involved - sometimes by the type of saliva.

"So far the farmers and law enforcement people in that area have been wonderful. The farmers have been very nice. They are a wonderful group of people to work with," Pitts added.

Pitts also pointed out that many people believe that MUFON is going to promote the idea of UFO involvement. "That is simply not the case at all," she said. She explained that what they wish to do is bring the scientific method to work and let the evidence speak for itself - through the use of lab analysis and critical examination by numerous experts.

"If farmers in that area have a predator problem then they need to be aware of it," and if the problem is of another nature then that too must be addressed.